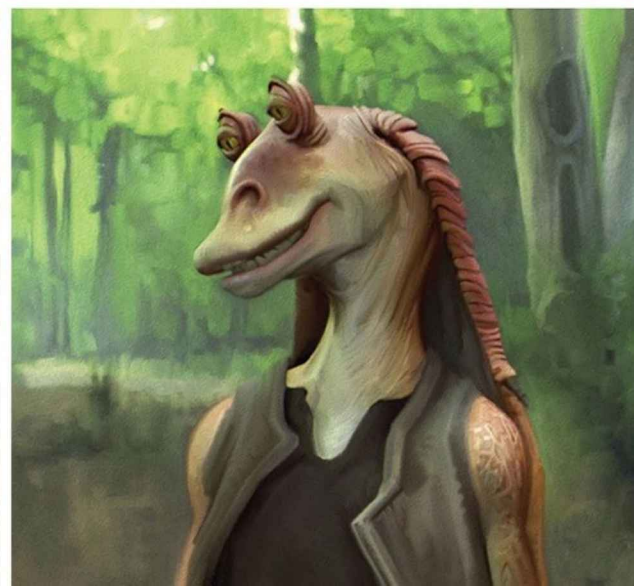
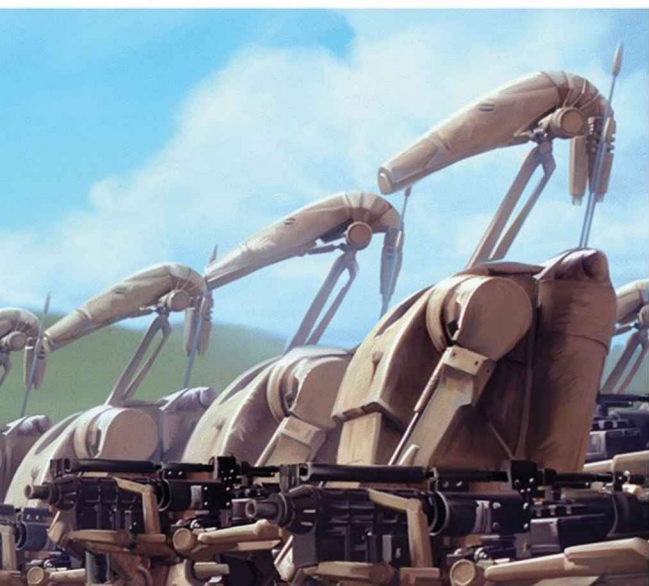




# STAR WARS™

THE PHANTOM MENACE



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# STAR WARS™

THE PHANTOM MENACE

Based on the story and screenplay by  
**George Lucas**

Illustrations by  
**Brian Rood**



LOS ANGELES • NEW YORK

# THE *STAR WARS* SAGA

## TIMELINE



*THE PHANTOM MENACE*



*ATTACK OF THE CLONES*



*REVENGE OF THE SITH*



*A NEW HOPE*



*THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*



*RETURN OF THE JEDI*



*THE FORCE AWAKENS*



# CONTENTS

## THE PHANTOM MENACE

SHORT NEGOTIATIONS

ESCAPING NABOO

THE PATH OF A PODRACER

A DIFFERENT PATH

DROID ATTACK!

THE FINAL FIGHT





A long time ago in a galaxy far,  
far away. . . .





## SHORT NEGOTIATIONS









## SHORT NEGOTIATIONS

Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn and his Jedi apprentice, Obi-Wan Kenobi, flew in their star cruiser toward the planet of Naboo.

The notorious Trade Federation had created a web of space stations around the planet that prevented anyone from coming or going.

This blockade also meant that the people of Naboo were not getting the supplies they desperately needed.

The Jedi had been sent by the Supreme Chancellor of the galaxy-spanning Republic. It was up to Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan to convince the Trade Federation to remove the blockade once and for all.



When they arrived at the blockade base, Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan were greeted by a silver protocol droid.

"We are greatly honored by your visit, ambassadors," said the droid.

However, despite the droid's kind words, it would soon become clear that the Trade Federation was not going to meet with them at all.

"I have a bad feeling about this," Obi-Wan said.

Qui-Gon was not concerned.

"These Federation types are cowards. The negotiations will be short."











Meanwhile, aboard the bridge of the blockade station, Viceroy Nute Gunray was already panicking.

The viceroy contacted Darth Sidious, an evil and powerful Sith Lord who was secretly in charge of the Trade Federation. Even as a hologram, Darth Sidious was a terrifying presence.

"This scheme of yours has failed, Lord Sidious," the viceroy's second-in-command pleaded. "The blockade is finished! We dare not go against these Jedi."

But Darth Sidious would not listen.

"Kill them immediately!" ordered the Sith Lord.



## SHORT NEGOTIATIONS

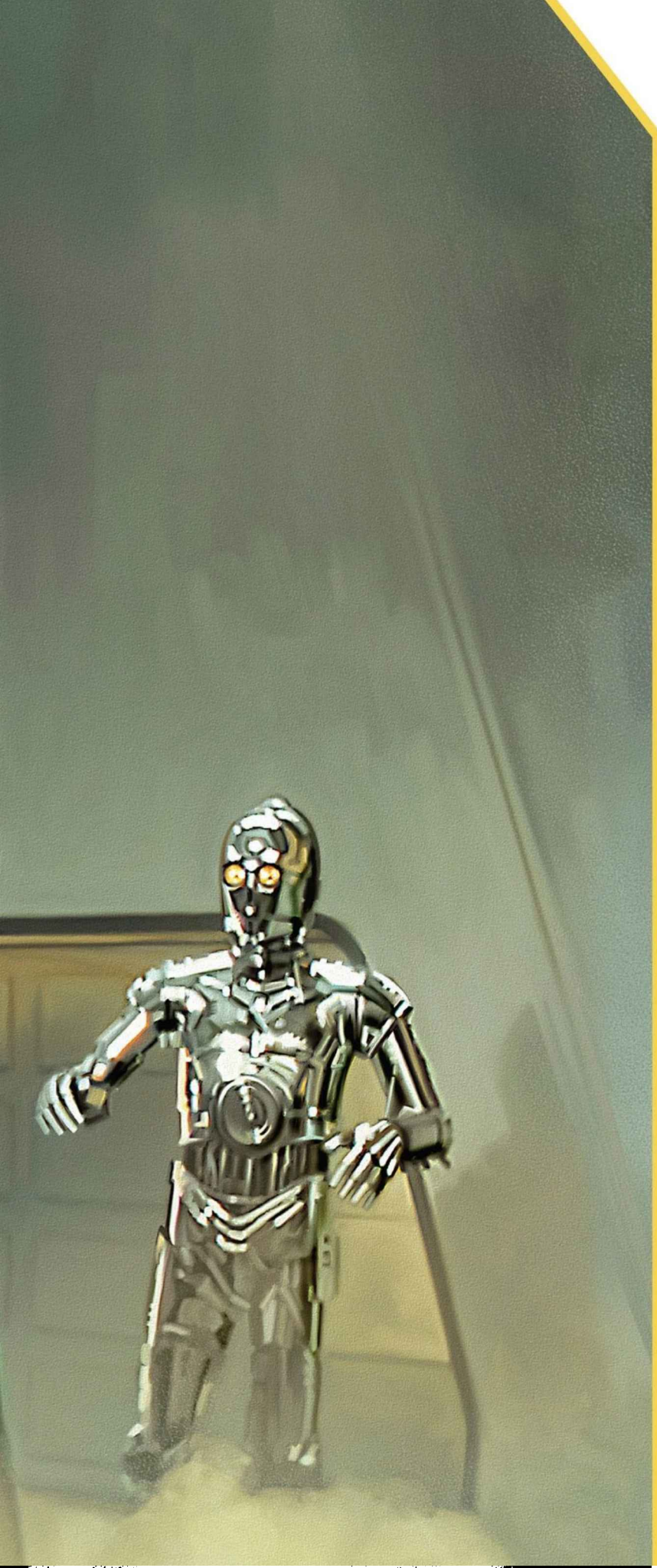
The viceroy acted quickly, ordering that the Jedi's Republic Cruiser be destroyed! The visitors would have no way to escape from the blockade!











Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan were still waiting for the viceroy in a separate room on board the base.

"I sense an unusual amount of fear for something as trivial as this trade dispute," said Qui-Gon.

Just then, the blast doors locked in place. The Jedi ignited their lightsabers in a flash, but toxic gas began to fill the air! Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan were trapped!

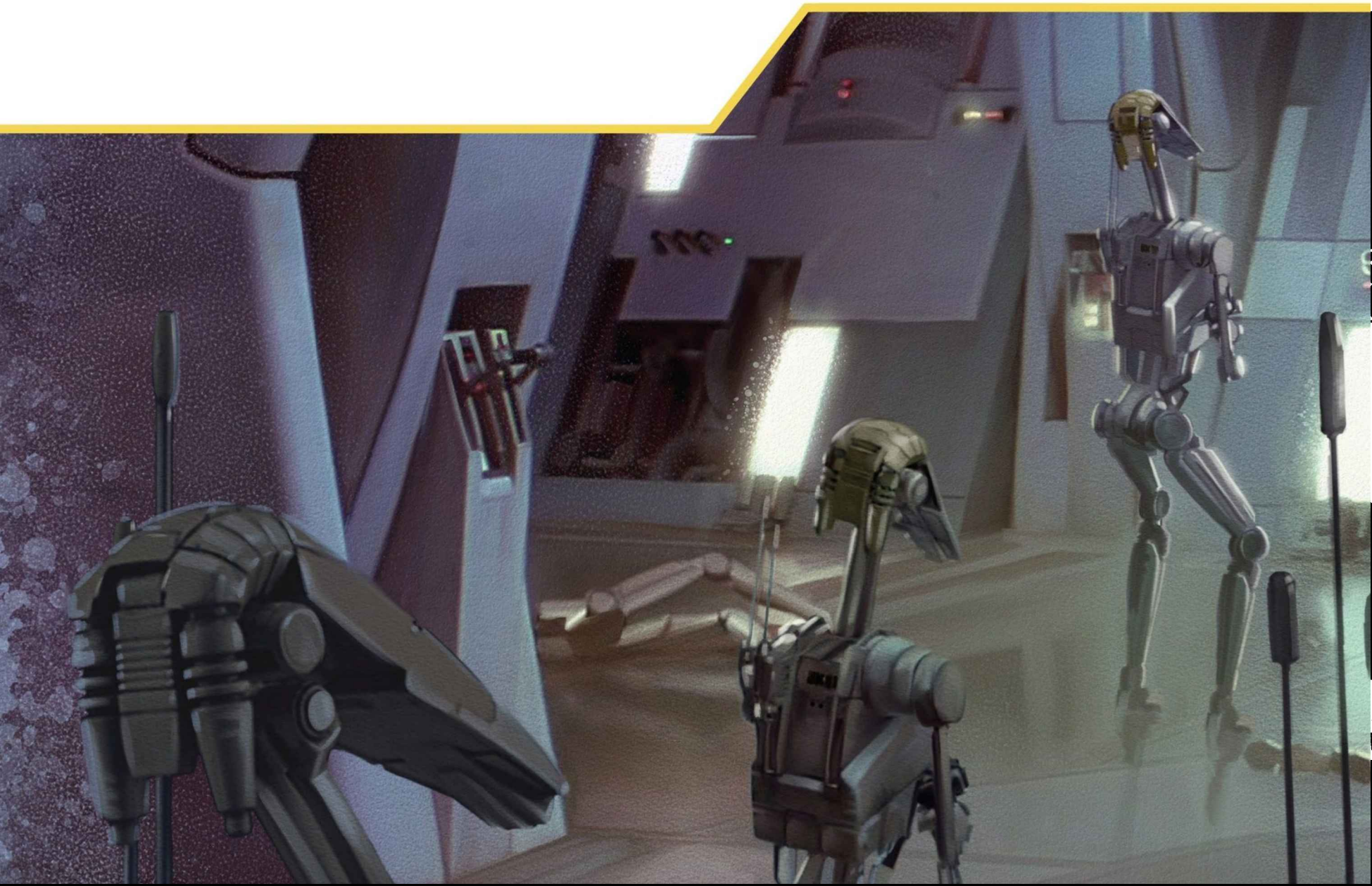




After a few minutes, the viceroy ordered his battle droids to capture the Jedi.

"They must be unconscious by now," he said.

When the doors opened, the battle droids cautiously entered the cloudy room, only to be met by Obi-Wan and Qui-Gon! The Jedi were alive and well.

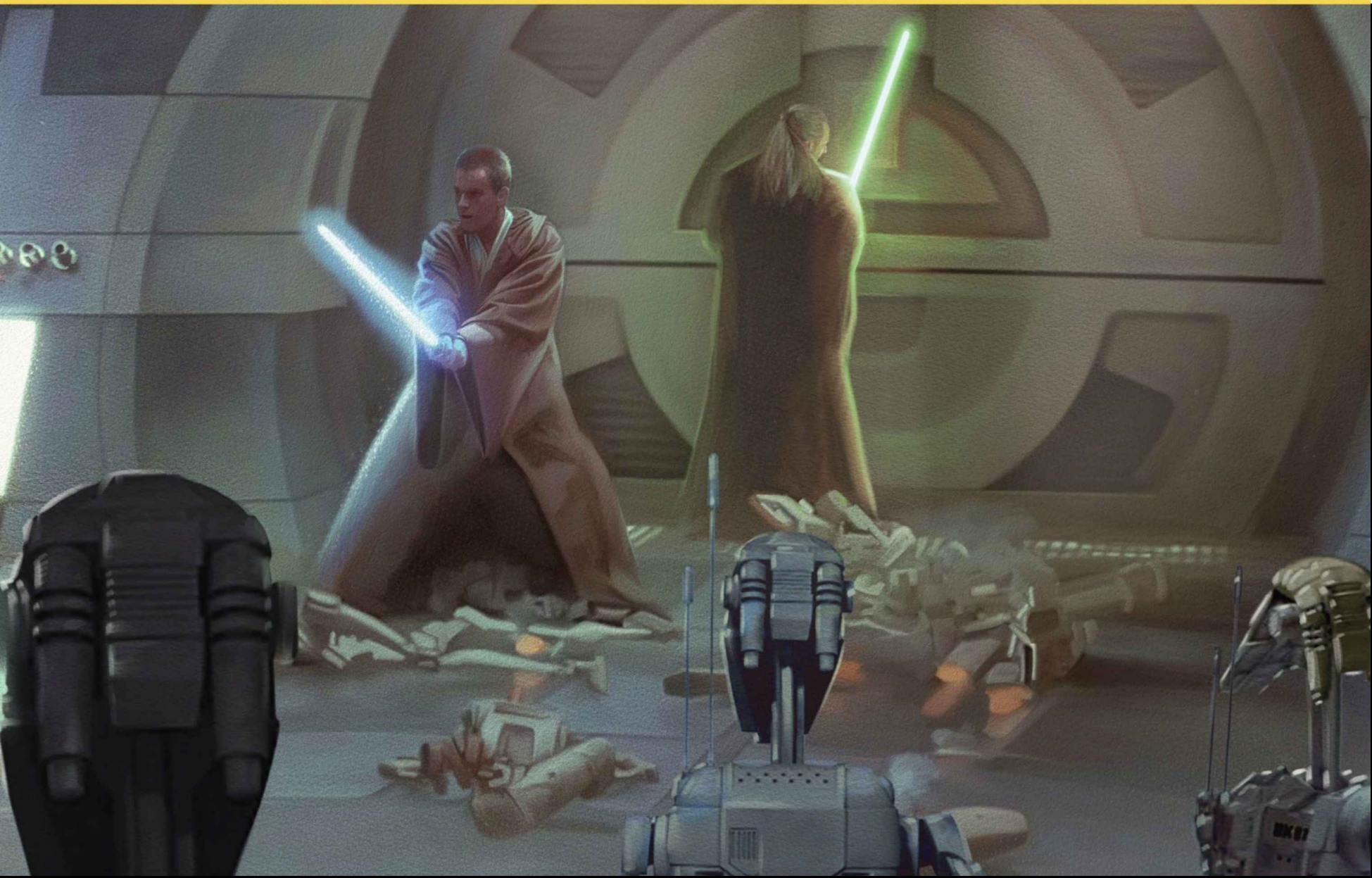




## S H O R T   N E G O T I A T I O N S

"Blast them!" ordered the lead droid.

But the battle droids were no match for the two Jedi. Qui-Gon dismantled robotic soldiers left and right while Obi-Wan used the Force to push a group of them through the air and smash them onto the ground!





With the battle droids defeated, Qui-Gon sensed the viceroy through a heavy blast door and plunged his lightsaber through the barrier.

The viceroy was shocked to see his soldiers defeated so easily.  
"Send in the droidekas," he commanded.



## S H O R T   N E G O T I A T I O N S

As the even deadlier destroyer droids started firing, Obi-Wan began blocking the blasts with his lightsaber! But the fiery bolts were coming too quickly and the droidekas had shield generators to protect them.

Qui-Gon realized they wouldn't have enough time to get through the door.

"It's a standoff! Let's go!"



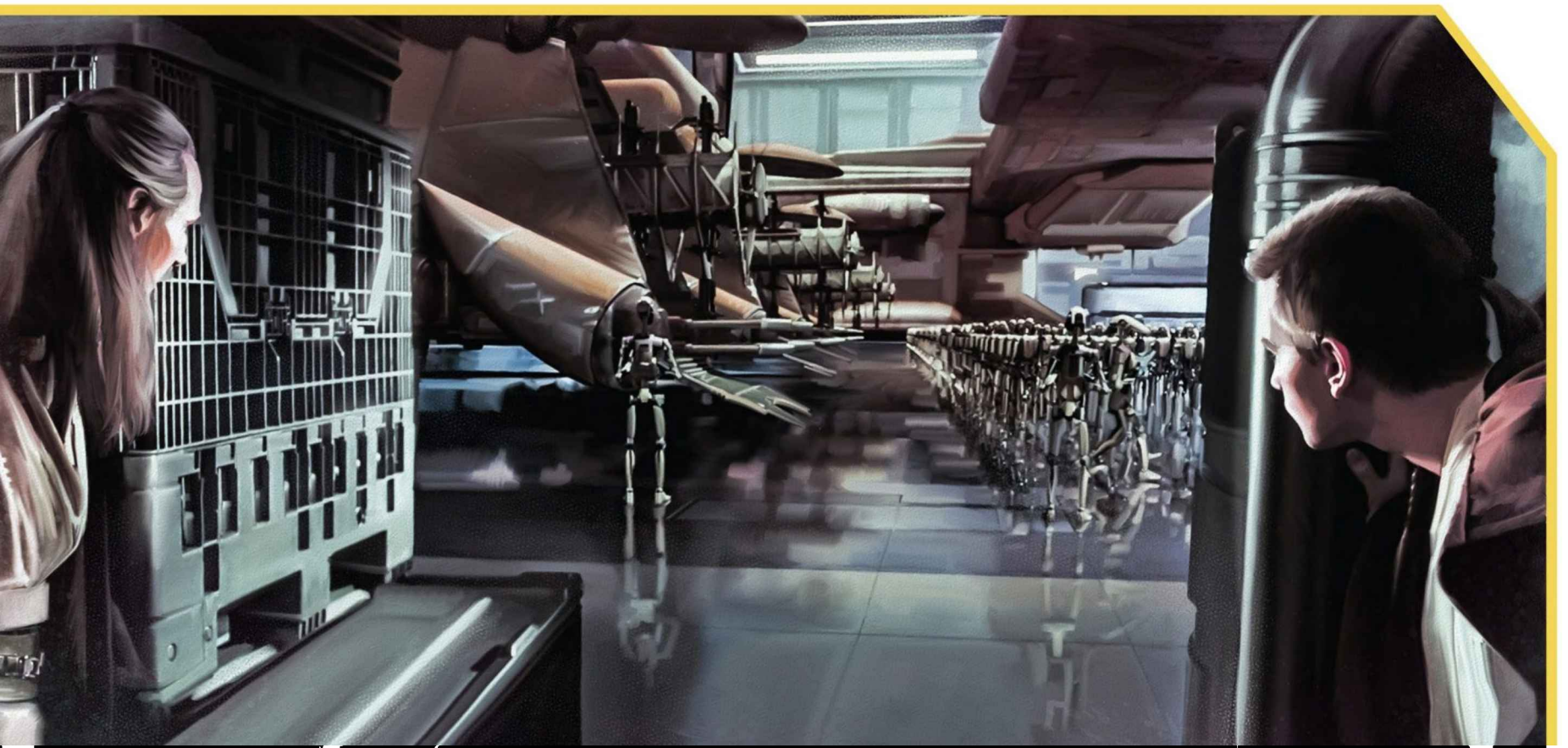


Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan slipped away and managed to find the large hangar bays on the base. There they saw thousands of battle droids being loaded onto massive carrier ships that were headed to the planet's surface.

"It's an invasion army," Obi-Wan said.

"This is an odd play for the Trade Federation," said Qui-Gon.

The two Jedi hid on board the carrier ships. They needed to inform the Supreme Chancellor, but more important, they had to find a way to warn the people of Naboo!







ESCAPING NABOO









## ESCAPING NABOO

Qui-Gon Jinn glanced up at the skies as he crashed through the forests of Naboo. He and his Jedi apprentice, Obi-Wan Kenobi, had narrowly escaped from the evil Trade Federation's clutches. Now the Jedi Knight was powerless as he watched battleships full of droid soldiers land on the innocent planet.

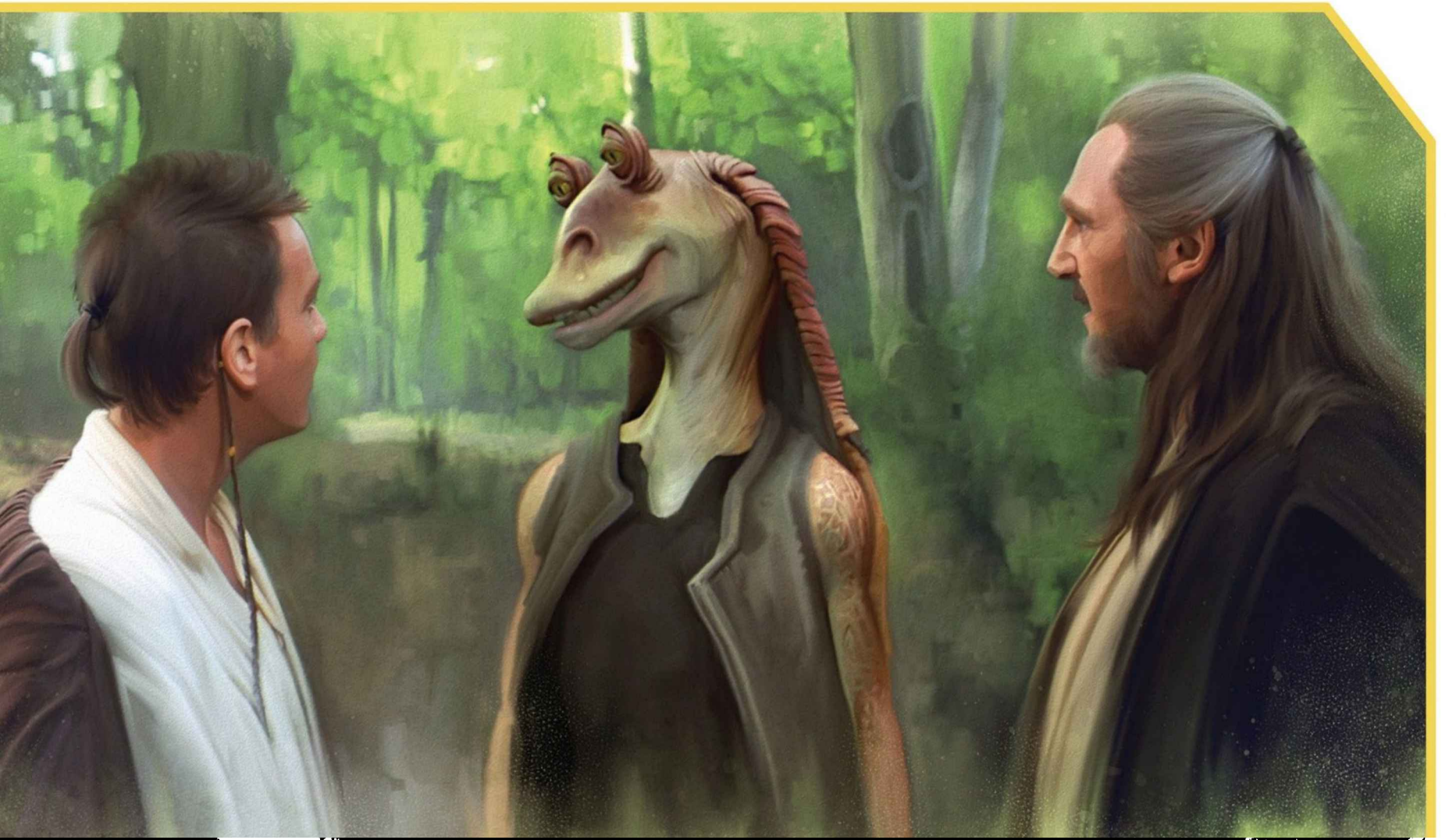
Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan needed to warn the people of Naboo before the Trade Federation took over.



The Jedi didn't get very far before they saw a tall alien about to be run over by a giant tank! Qui-Gon saved the stranger just in time. But when the Jedi tried to send the alien away, he refused!

"No . . . no! Mesa stay. . . . Mesa called Jar Jar Binks. Mesa your humble servant," the alien replied.

Jar Jar told the Jedi about a safe underwater city where his people, the Gungans, lived.







Qui-Gon needed help. This hidden city sounded like a good start. But when Qui-Gon told Jar Jar to lead the way, Jar Jar was suddenly scared. He had been banished from Otoh Gunga and could never return.

Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan wouldn't take no for an answer, and soon the unlikely trio was swimming deep, deep, deep into a large lake until they arrived at the mysterious underwater city.



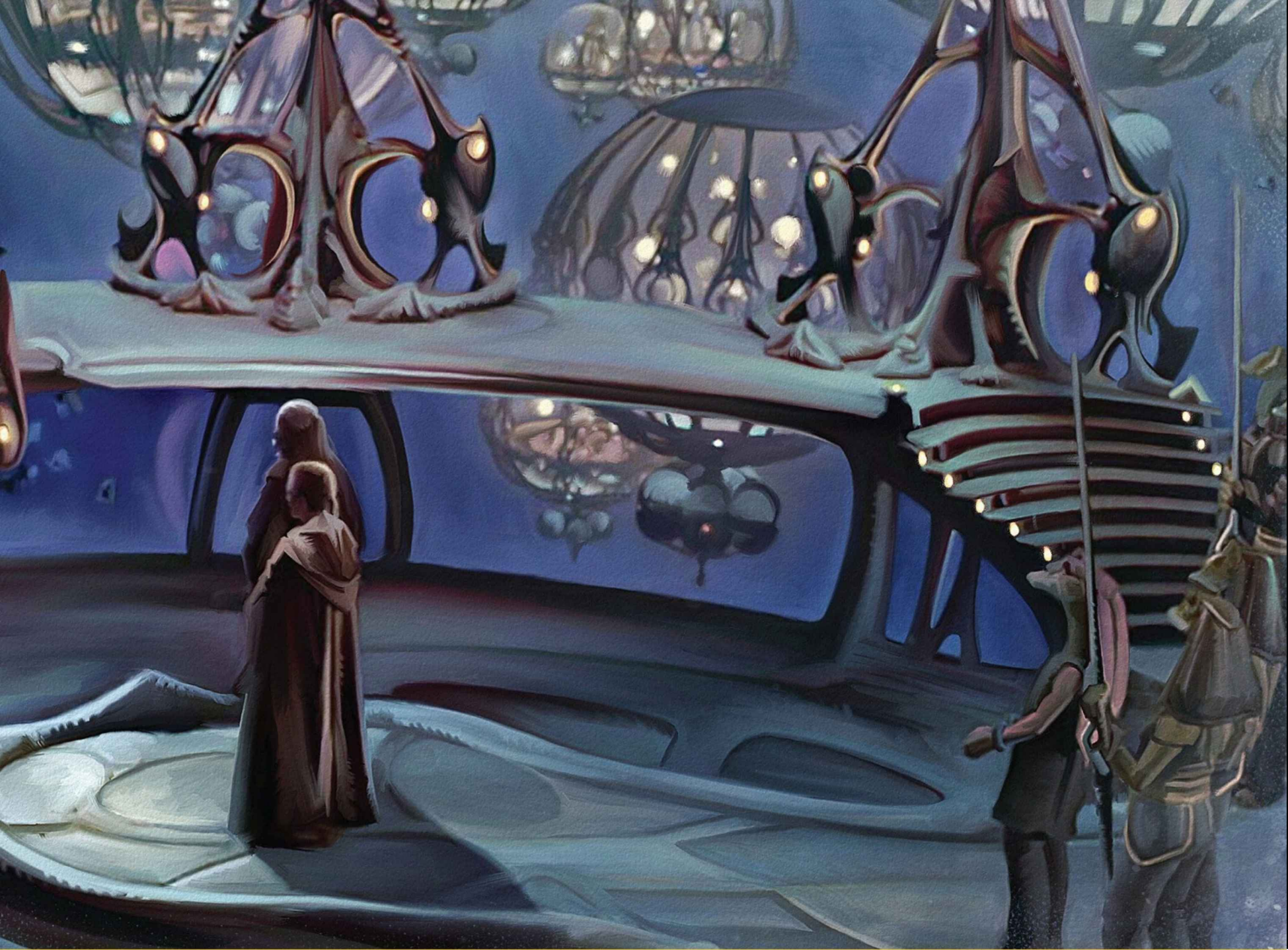


The Jedi were brought before the city's leader, Boss Nass.

Qui-Gon hoped that the Gungan leader would aid them in warning the Naboo, but Boss Nass believed his people were well hidden from the Trade Federation.

"Wesa no care-n about da Naboo," Boss Nass told Qui-Gon.





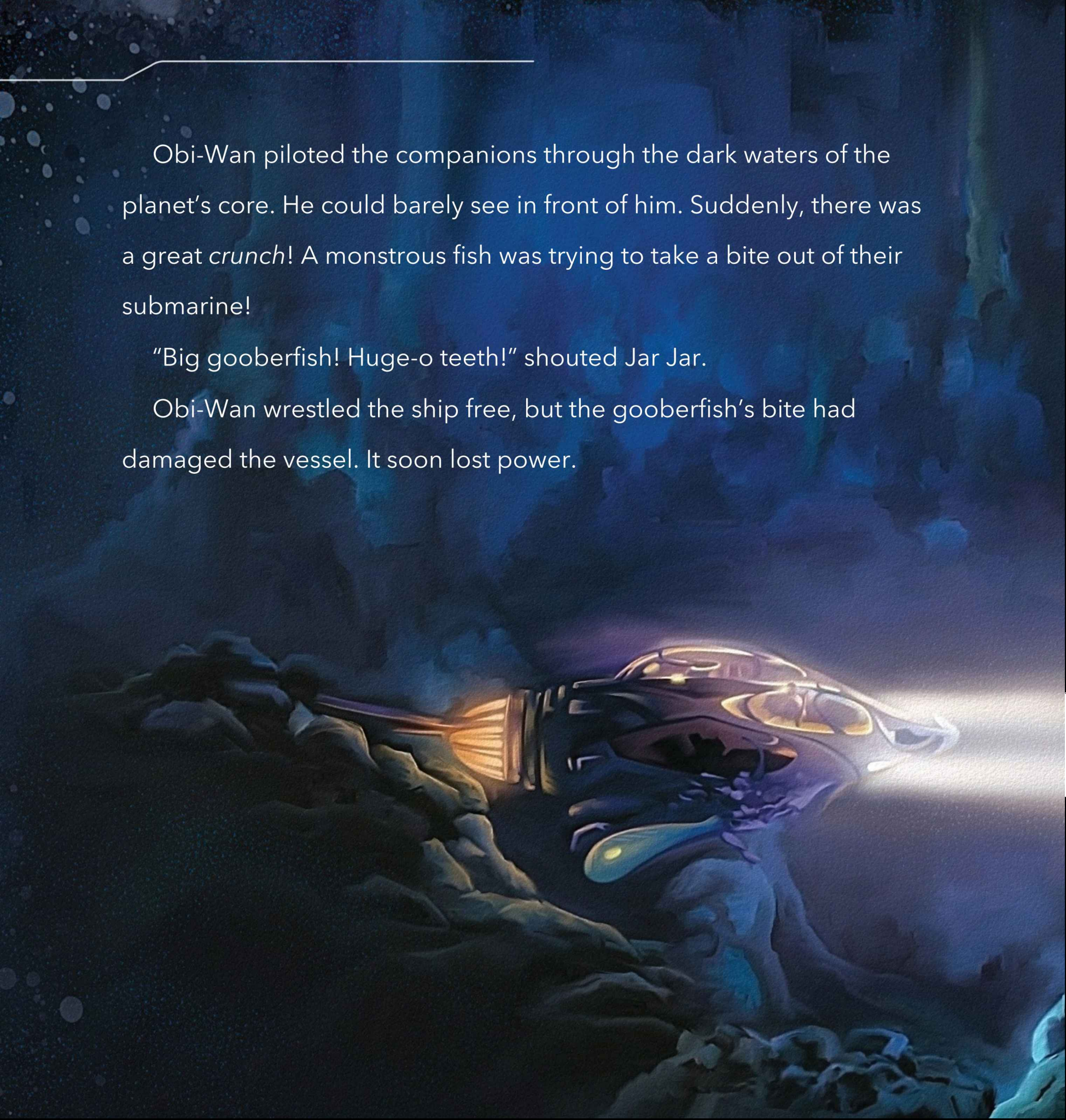
The Jedi had no choice but to continue on their mission without the Gungans' help. However, they were given transport through the planet's core, as well as a guide—Jar Jar!



Obi-Wan piloted the companions through the dark waters of the planet's core. He could barely see in front of him. Suddenly, there was a great *crunch*! A monstrous fish was trying to take a bite out of their submarine!

"Big gooberfish! Huge-o teeth!" shouted Jar Jar.

Obi-Wan wrestled the ship free, but the gooberfish's bite had damaged the vessel. It soon lost power.





Luckily, Obi-Wan had been trained well by Qui-Gon, and the Padawan quickly got the ship back up and running again, only to reveal another monstrous fish! This one was even bigger than the last one.

Jar Jar yelped in panic, but Obi-Wan deftly piloted the ship away from the monster's jaws and into an outcropping. They were finally out of danger.



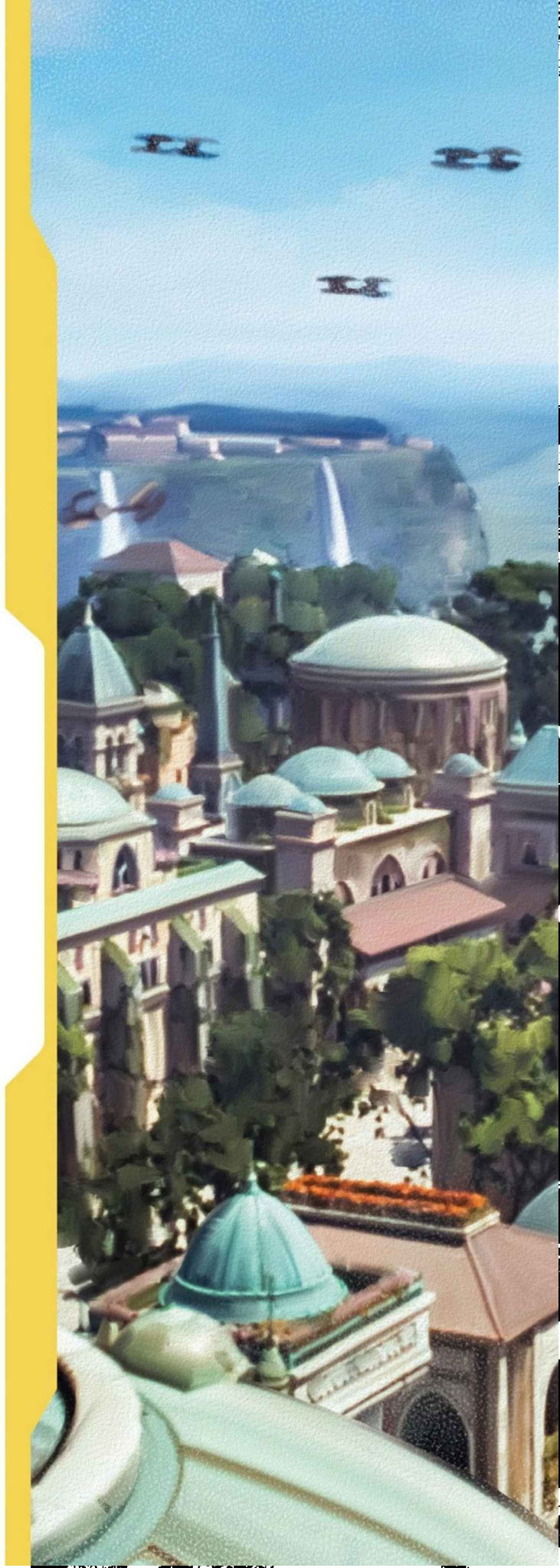


The Jedi soon reached the planet's surface, but they were too late. Not only had the Trade Federation beaten them to Naboo's capital city, but it had captured the planet's leader, Queen Amidala. The Jedi needed to rescue her!

Qui-Gon led Obi-Wan and Jar Jar into the city. They snuck through the streets, avoiding droid patrols until they found the queen, her security forces, and her handmaidens being led away by Trade Federation troops.

Obi-Wan and Qui-Gon leapt over a balcony and, with a few brief slashes of their lightsabers, took down the troops.

"We should leave the streets," Qui-Gon said, leading the group toward a hangar.



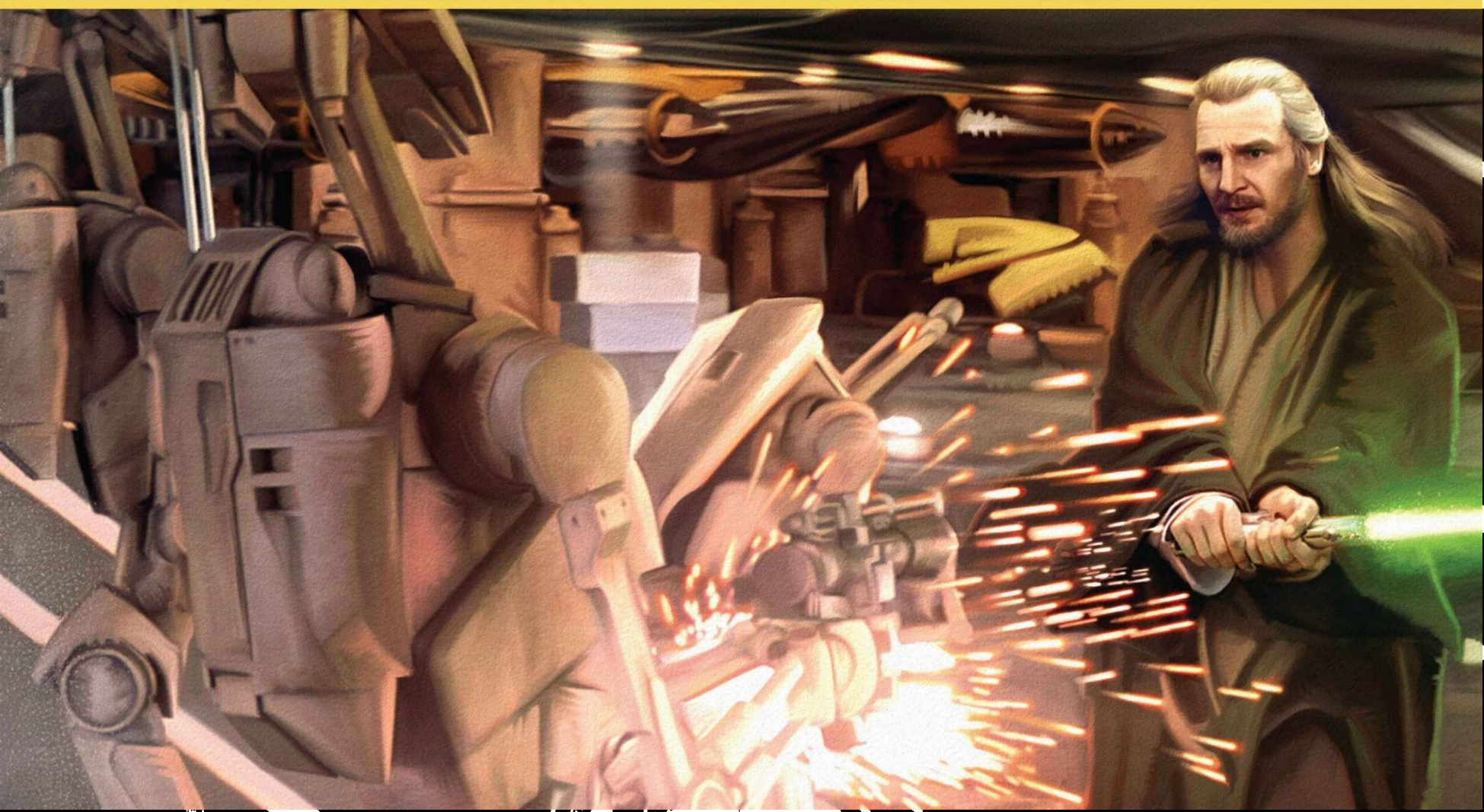






Now that they had Queen Amidala, Qui-Gon realized they had to get her off Naboo. Queen Amidala didn't want to leave her people, but Qui-Gon convinced her that only under the protection of the Galactic Senate and the Supreme Chancellor on Coruscant could she begin the battle to win back her planet.

The hangar was full of droid troops that stopped Qui-Gon and the others as soon as they reached the queen's ship.



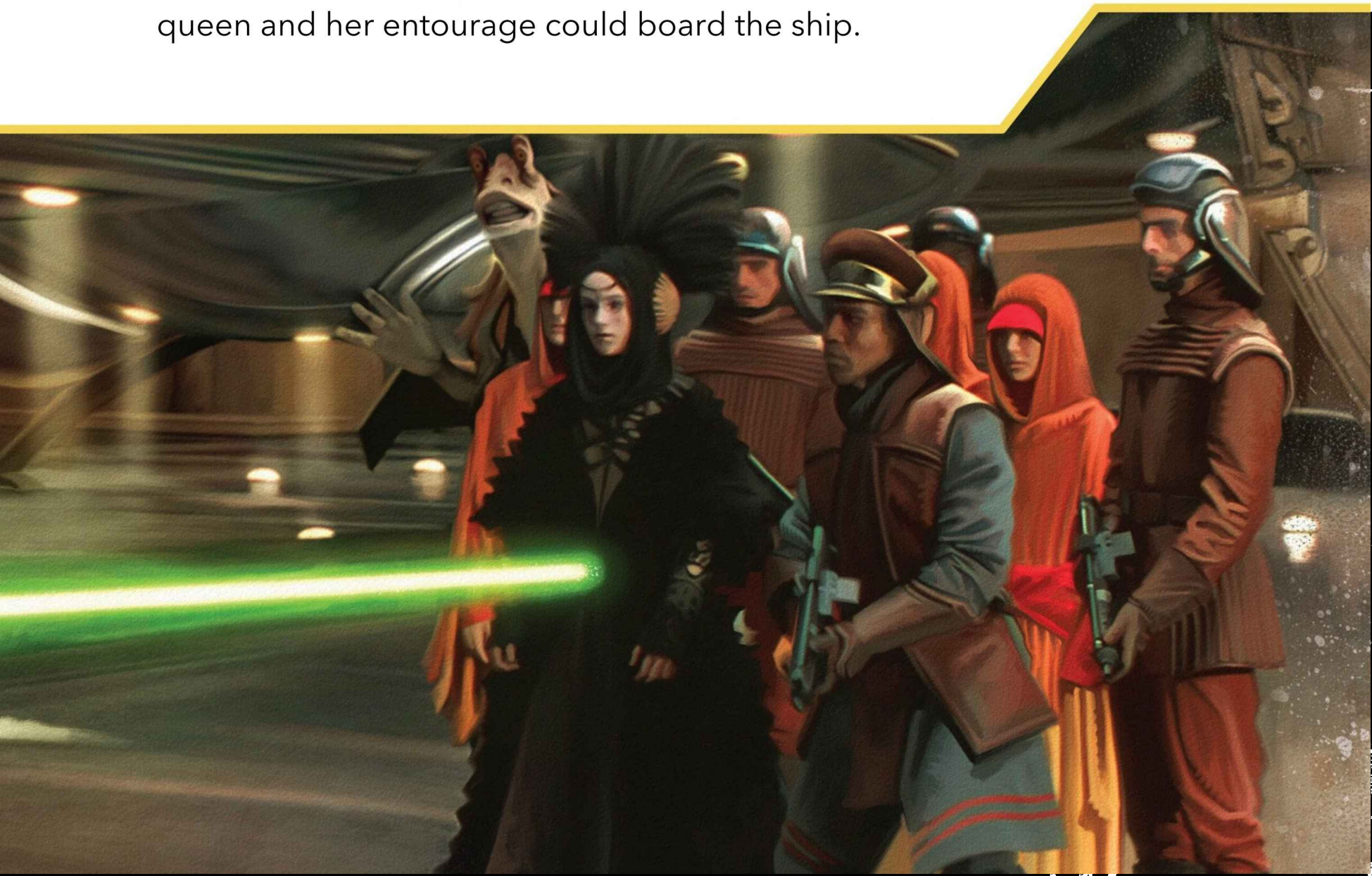


## ESCAPING NABOO

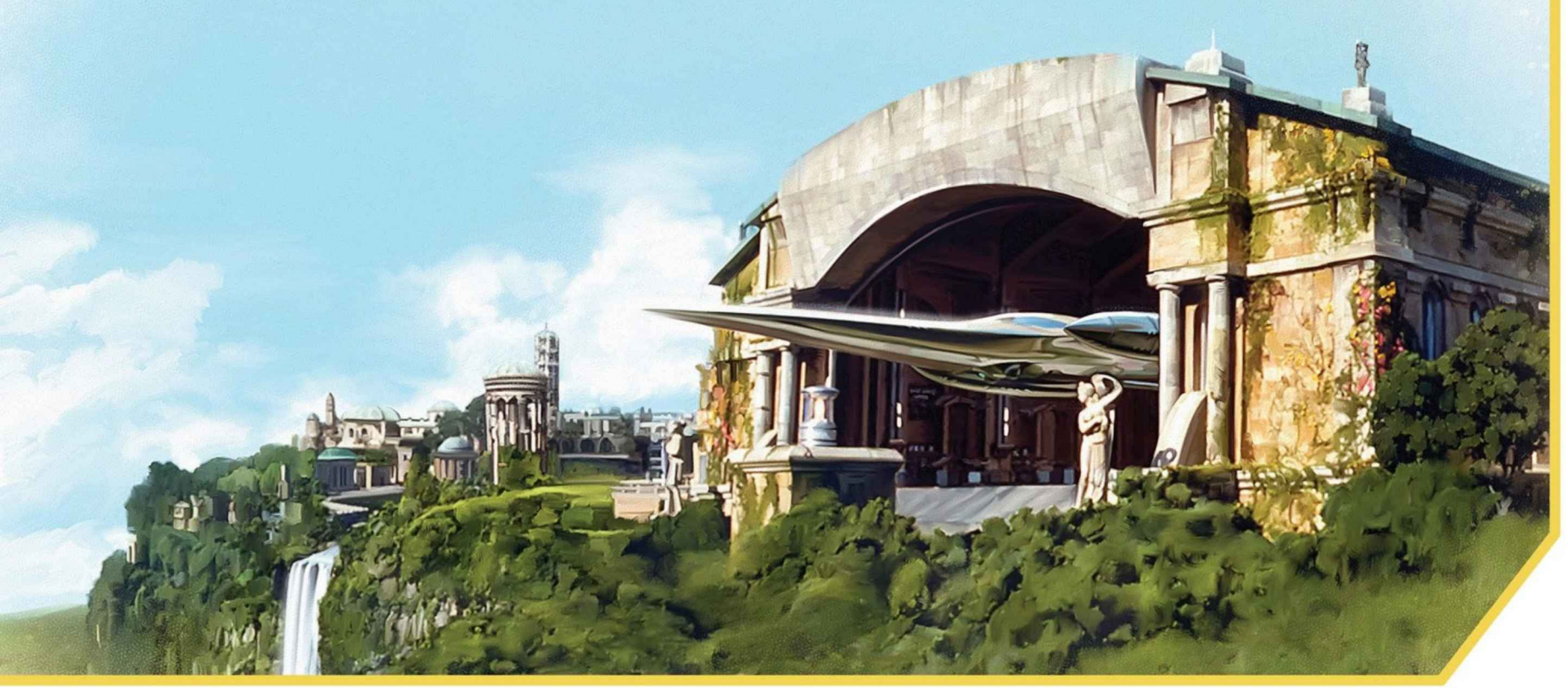
"I'm ambassador for the Supreme Chancellor, and I'm taking these people to Coruscant," Qui-Gon said.

"That doesn't compute," the droid commander replied. "You're under arrest!"

Resorting to more aggressive negotiations, Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan used their lightsabers to silence the droid soldiers so the queen and her entourage could board the ship.







The queen's ship rocketed away from the hangar, but Qui-Gon and his companions weren't free yet. They needed to get past the Trade Federation's blockade of ships surrounding the planet. They were just one ship, and they didn't have a lot of weapons. They would have to make a run for it.

Suddenly, the ship jolted. They had been hit—badly.

"The shield generator's out!" shouted the captain.

Qui-Gon was worried. Without the shields, they wouldn't last long against the blockade. They had to send out droids to fix the shield generator.



## ESCAPING NABOO

The ship's company of droids, including a small blue-and-white R2 unit, quickly began repairs. But the Trade Federation wasn't going to give up without a fight. It aimed its weapons at the droids!

"We're losing droids fast," Obi-Wan said.

Soon only the small R2 unit was left. Would he be able to fix the ship on his own?

With a buzz, the shields came back to life!

The droid had done it! With the shields back on, the ship safely made it past the blockade and into hyperspace.







Qui-Gon met with Queen Amidala as she commended the droid that had saved them. "What is its number?" she asked her security officer.

"Artoo-Detoo," he replied.

"Thank you, Artoo-Detoo," the queen said, smiling at the small droid.

The ship was still badly damaged. They would need to land on a nearby planet to make repairs. But Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan had rescued the queen and escaped Naboo, and that was a good start.





# THE PATH OF A PODRACER









## THE PATH OF A PODRACER

Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jinn was in trouble. He and his Padawan, Obi-Wan Kenobi, may have rescued Queen Amidala, but they had failed to convince the Trade Federation to lift the blockade surrounding Naboo.

The Jedi needed to take the queen to Coruscant so she could urge the Senate to help her people, but the ship they were traveling in was badly damaged.

Qui-Gon, Obi-Wan, the queen, and her attendants were forced to make an emergency landing on an Outer Rim planet called

Tatooine. Settlements on the desert planet were scarce, and Qui-Gon had little time to find supplies and fix their transport.

Without the right parts, they'd never make it to Coruscant . . . and the citizens of Naboo would continue to suffer.



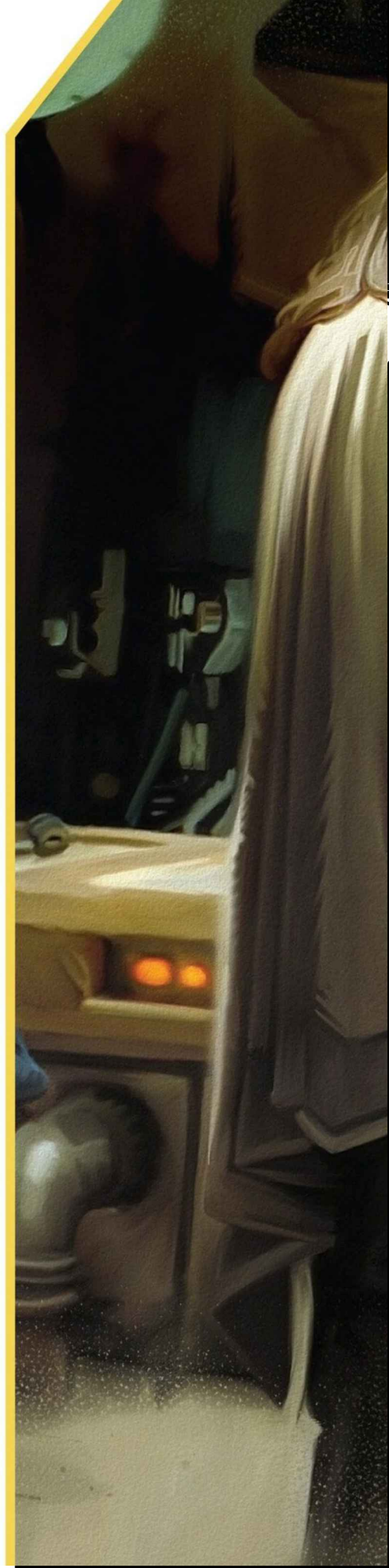
Before Qui-Gon set off to locate the supplies they needed, the queen insisted one of her handmaidens, Padmé, join him. Qui-Gon led Padmé, Jar Jar Binks, and R2-D2 across the desert and into a cramped junk shop, where a winged creature named Watto hovered behind the counter.

“Watch the store!” Watto barked at a young slave boy named Anakin before turning to help Qui-Gon.

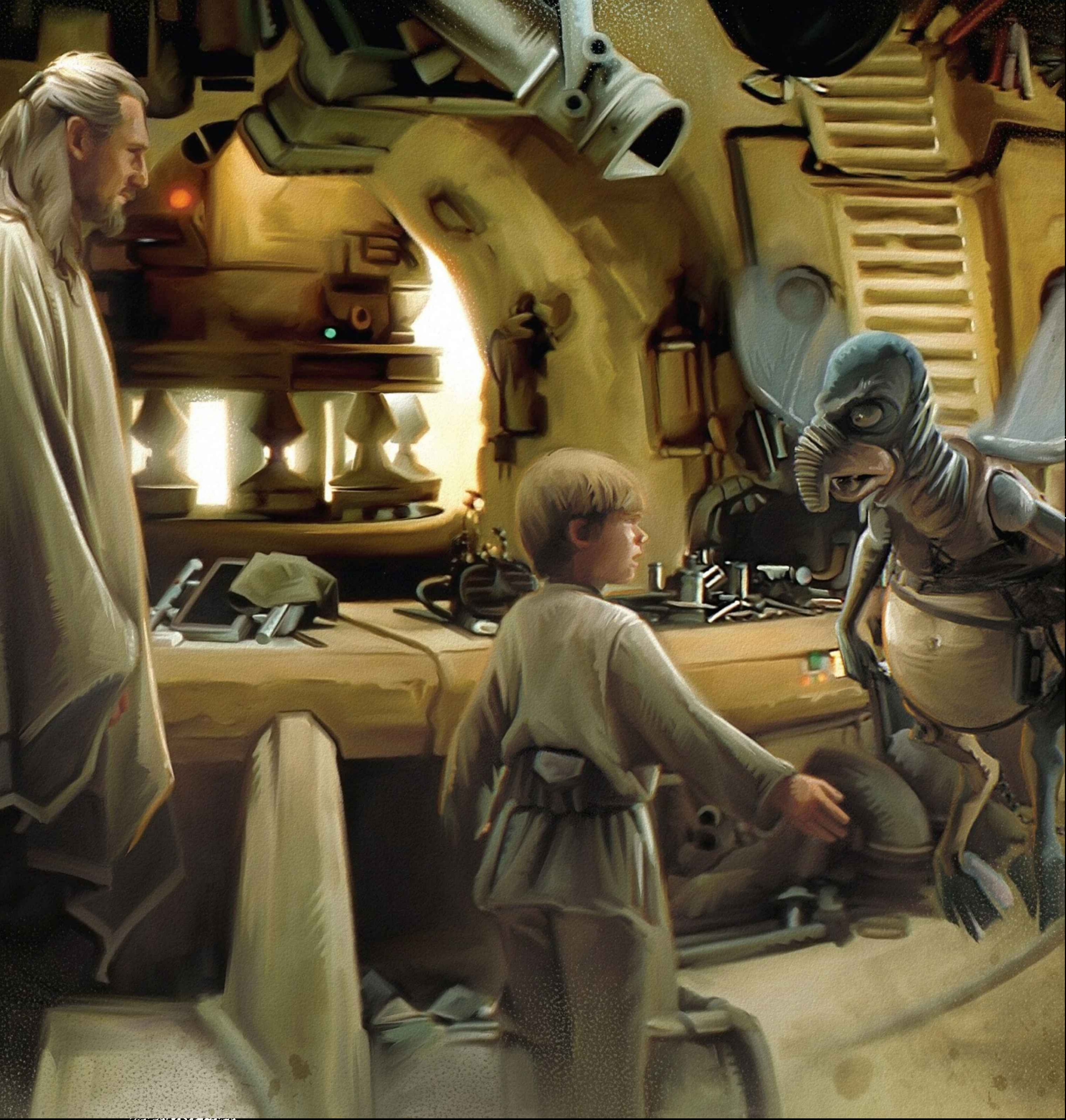
Watto had what Qui-Gon needed, but he wouldn’t accept the Jedi’s Republic credits. The group left the junk shop empty-handed. If they couldn’t find another way to pay Watto, they wouldn’t make it to Coruscant.

Fierce winds whipped sand across the desert. A storm was quickly approaching.

The boy from the shop invited Qui-Gon, Jar Jar, Padmé, and R2-D2 to take shelter with him, so the group followed Anakin home.















Anakin introduced everyone to his mother, Shmi. The boy was happy to have new friends in his home, but he was particularly fond of Padmé.

"I built a protocol droid to help Mom. Come on, I'll show you Threepio!"

The unfinished droid blinked to life.

"Hello, I am See-Threepio, human-cyborg relations." C-3PO tottered over to the small blue-and-white droid, who beeped a loud greeting. "Artoo-Detoo, a pleasure to meet you."



Over dinner, Qui-Gon explained that they were traveling to Coruscant and needed supplies to repair their ship.

Anakin knew what to do.

"There's a big race tomorrow on Boonta Eve. You could enter my pod. The prize money would more than pay for the parts."

Podracers flew fast ships through narrow canyons. Anakin's mother was afraid for her son. But Shmi agreed that he should enter on Qui-Gon's behalf.

"He was meant to help you."







Qui-Gon sensed the Force was strong with Anakin. He wanted to train the boy to become a Jedi. When the storm passed, Qui-Gon approached Watto with a wager. Watto agreed to let Anakin race but refused to trade Anakin's podracer for the family's freedom.

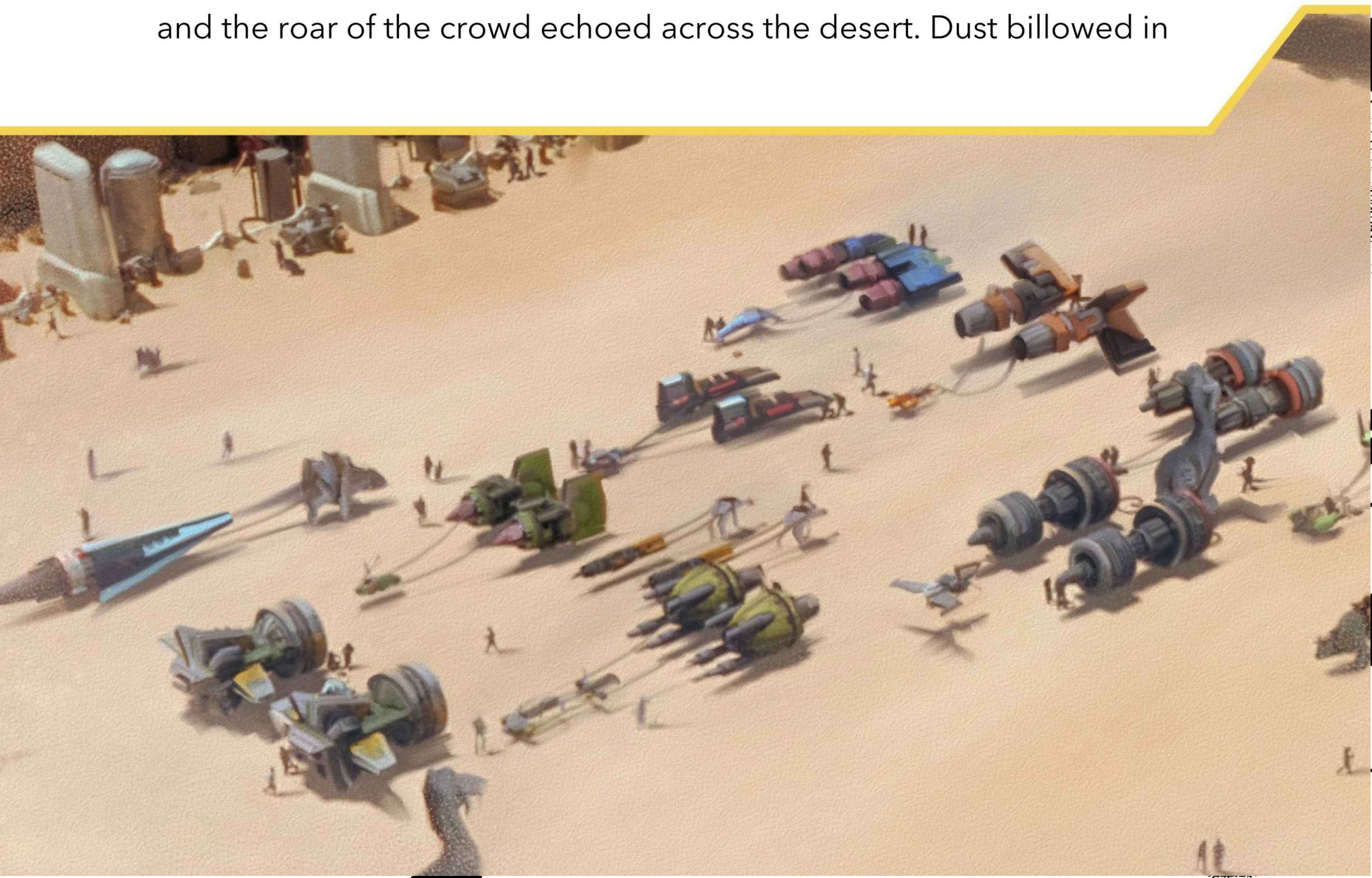
After some discussion, the two decided that Anakin could earn his freedom by beating an alien named Sebulba—but Anakin's mother would remain a slave.



Cheering spectators filled the stands on the day of the race. As the announcers introduced the racers, Sebulba secretly loosened a piece of Anakin's podracer.

"Use your instincts." Qui-Gon adjusted Anakin's helmet. "May the Force be with you."

A wealthy gangster named Jabba the Hutt sounded the gong, and the roar of the crowd echoed across the desert. Dust billowed in



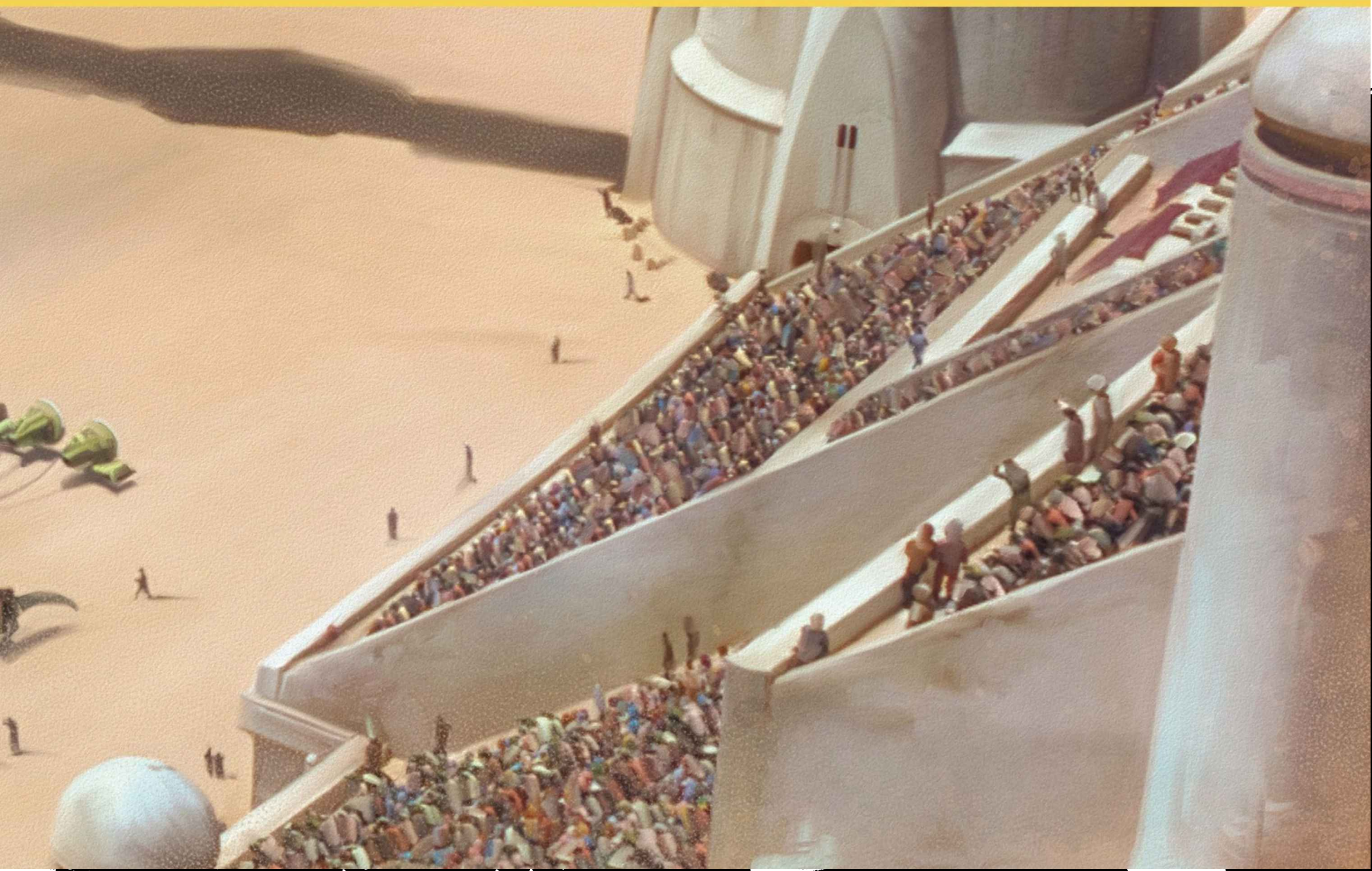


## THE PATH OF A PODRACER

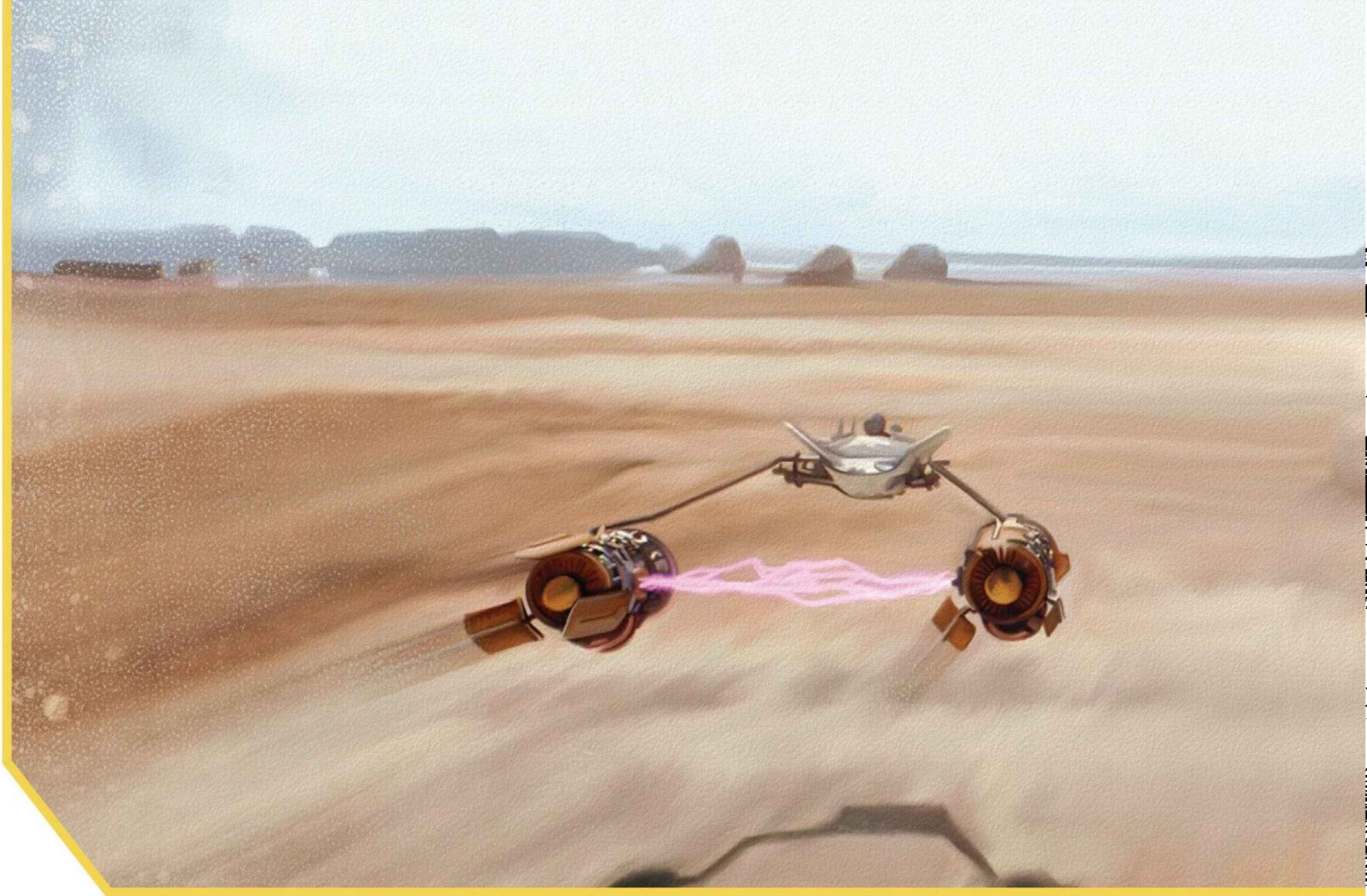
enormous clouds and engines growled loudly as the racers burst from the starting line to careen around the first corner.

But Anakin's podracer stalled. He couldn't move!

Anakin flipped switches and shuffled cords, reengineering his podracer until it surged forward. Anakin had to make up for lost time!



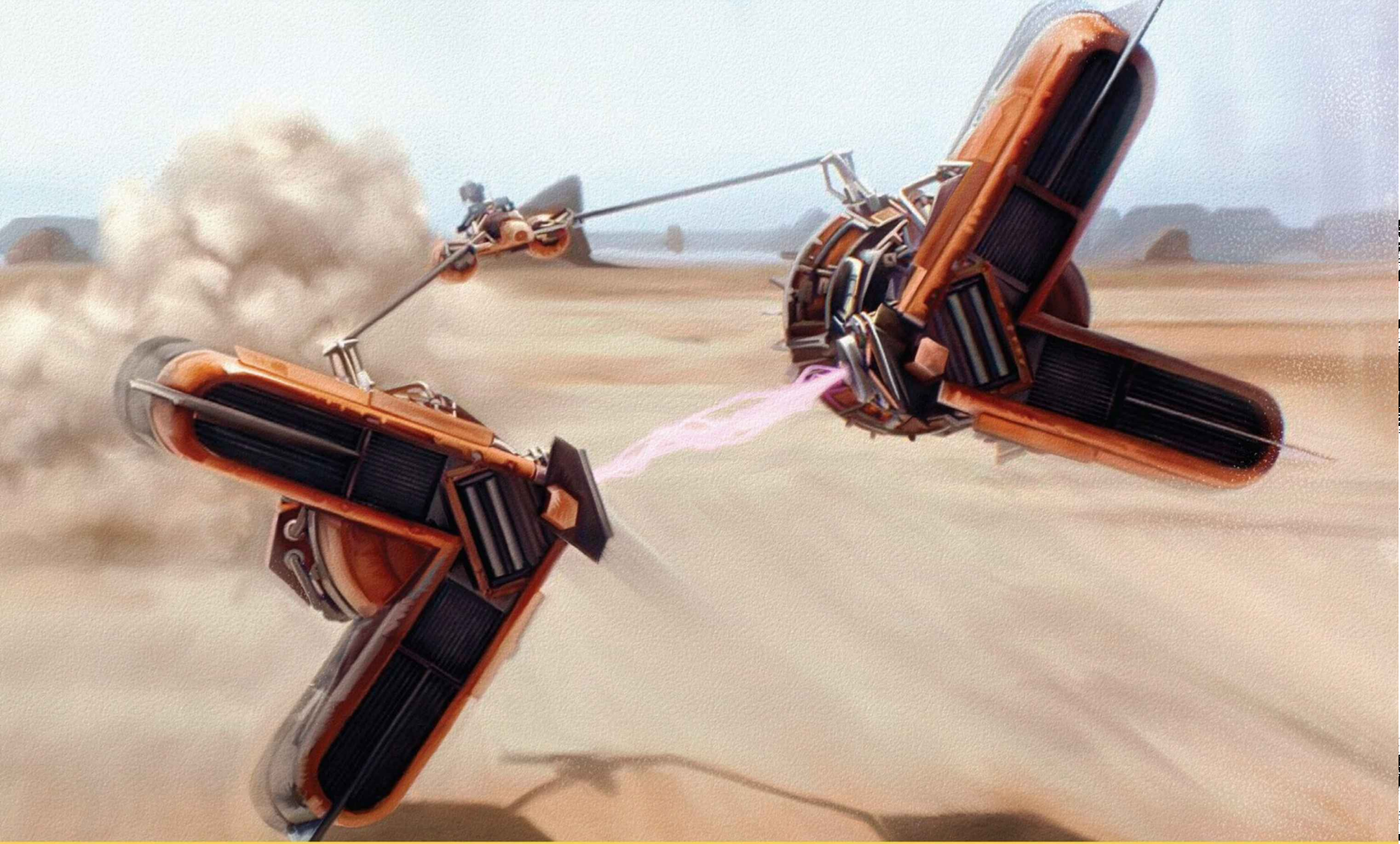




Tusken Raiders lurked in the dunes, firing blasts that sent racers off course. But Anakin flew with exceptional skill, darting through rocky arches and around the wreckage of unlucky podracers.

Anakin started his final lap directly behind Sebulba. But the piece of the boy's pod racer that the alien had tampered with earlier suddenly flew off, and Anakin's pod racer started to stream black smoke!

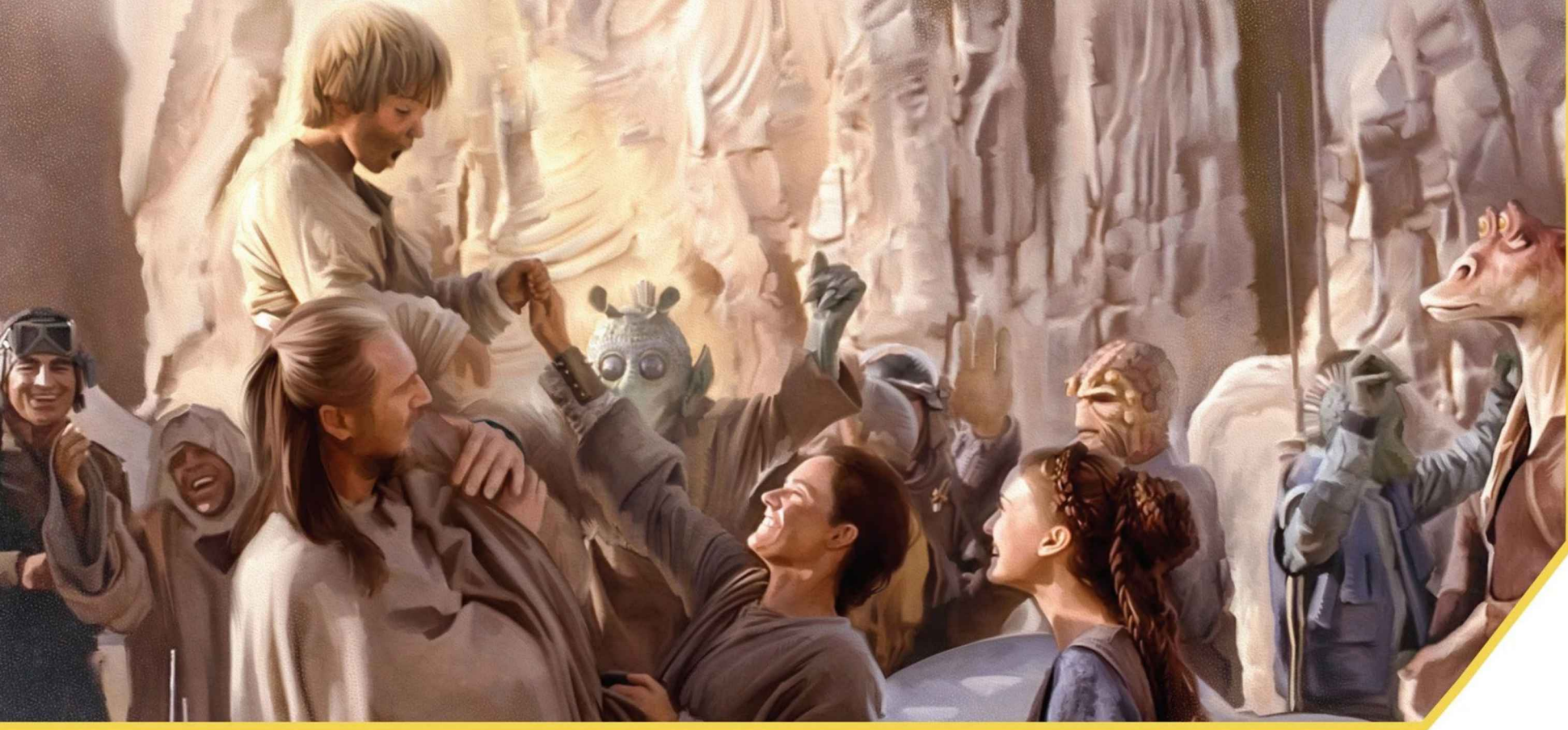




As Anakin struggled to balance his engines, Sebulba slammed into him. But the alien's dirty trick backfired. The attack made Sebulba's engine explode! The alien crashed hard in the dry sand. Sebulba was out of the race!

Anakin kept a tight grip on his podracer and sped through the finish line to take first place. The crowd burst into cheers!





"Mom, I did it!" Anakin cried as Qui-Gon lifted him onto his shoulders.

"You have brought hope to those who have none." Shmi smiled. "I'm so very proud of you."

Qui-Gon used the prize money to buy the supplies they needed and gave Shmi the money he earned selling the podracer. Then he told the Skywalkers about his wager: Anakin's win had earned the boy his freedom and the chance to train as a Jedi.

Shmi hugged her son. "Now you can make your dreams come true."



## THE PATH OF A PODRACER

"What about Mom?" Anakin asked Qui-Gon. "Is she free, too?"

Qui-Gon frowned.

"I tried to free your mother, too, but Watto wouldn't let me."

Anakin was excited to train as a Jedi, but he didn't want to leave his mother. He wondered if he would ever see her again.

"What does your heart tell you?" she asked.

"I will come back and free you, Mom," Anakin said.

"I promise."

Shmi cupped Anakin's face tenderly.

"We'll see each other again."

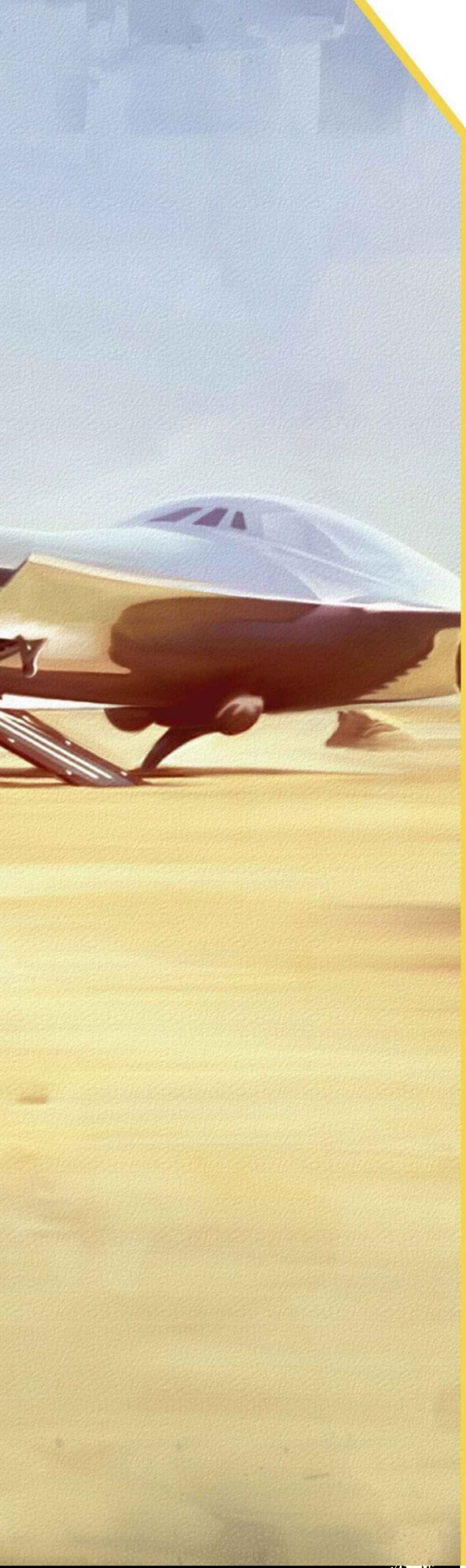
Then she squeezed his shoulders and turned him toward Qui-Gon. With his mother's encouragement, Anakin took his first brave steps on his path to becoming a Jedi.











A hover bike raced toward Anakin and Qui-Gon as they neared their ship. A cloaked creature with a red-and-black face flipped over the bike, activated a lightsaber, and launched himself at Qui-Gon.

Anakin scrambled onto the starship as Qui-Gon began to duel the mysterious opponent.

The hum of clashing weapons echoed across the desert as the creature's powerful strokes drove Qui-Gon backward. The Jedi's lightsaber shook as he blocked the intruder's blows. Qui-Gon couldn't hold him off much longer!

Just as the creature jumped into the air to strike Qui-Gon down, the Jedi leapt onto the lowered ramp of the ship. The doors closed and the starship flew away. Qui-Gon had escaped!



On board the ship and puzzled by what had just happened, Qui-Gon distracted himself by introducing Anakin to Obi-Wan.

"You're a Jedi, too?" Anakin asked as he shook Obi-Wan's hand.  
"Pleased to meet you!"

Qui-Gon knew that the Force had brought the three of them together. He had gone to Tatooine looking for supplies, but what he had found was far more valuable—and may have even had the power to change the balance of the Force forever.

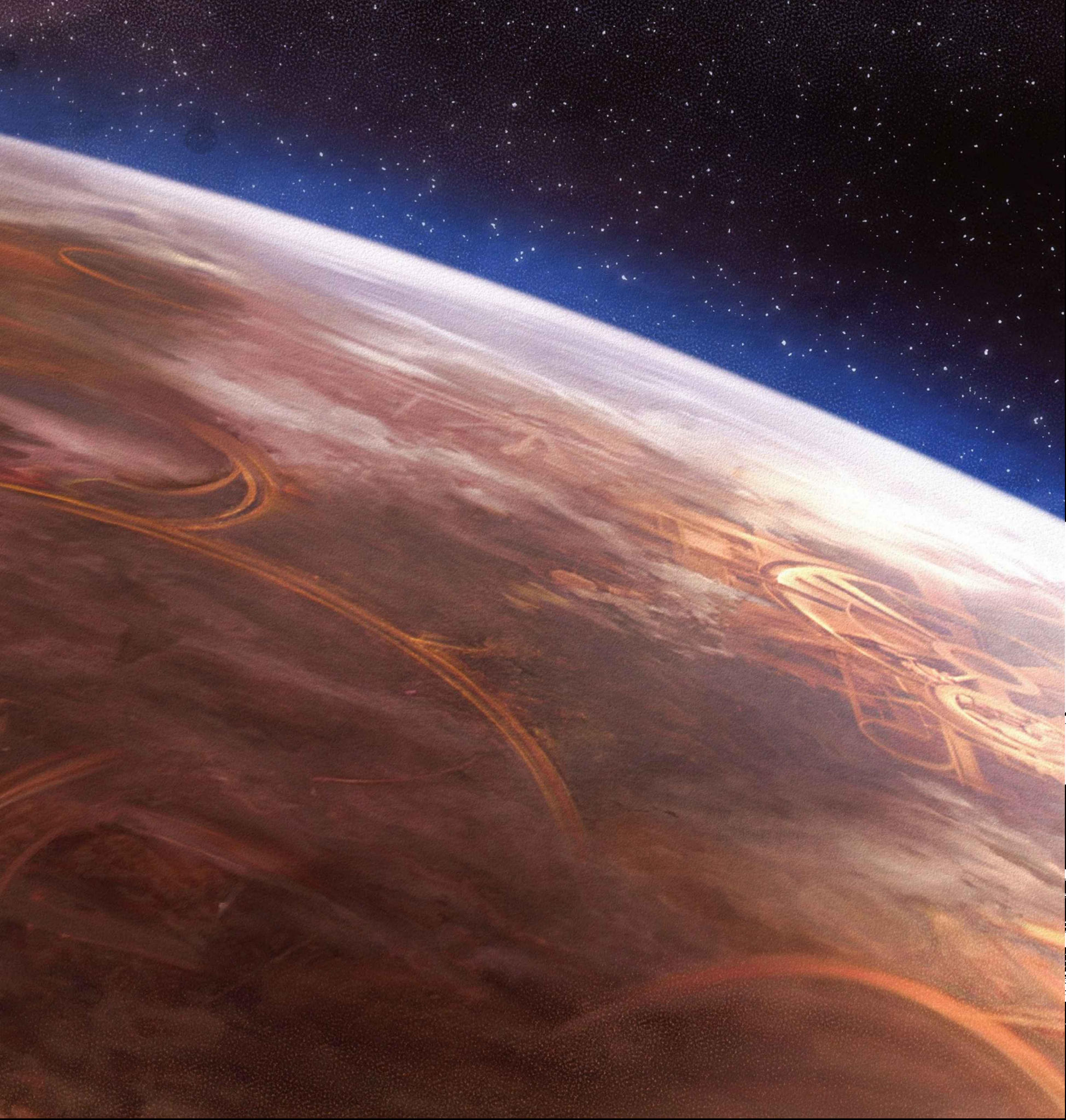







A DIFFERENT PATH









anakin Skywalker looked through the viewport of Queen Amidala's cruiser and saw an amazing sight—the planet of Coruscant.

Over the centuries, Coruscant's many large cities had grown so big that they finally became one city that stretched across the entire planet.

The billions of twinkling lights below made Anakin feel very small. He had just left his home planet of Tatooine for the first time. Although he was happy to be with his new friends—especially the queen's handmaiden, Padmé—he was nervous about his future. . . .





The Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jinn had taken Anakin to Coruscant to present the boy to the Jedi Council. Qui-Gon believed that Anakin was strong in the Force and destined to become a Jedi Knight himself. Perhaps Anakin could even help the Jedi track down the mysterious stranger who had attacked them before they left Tatooine. But first Qui-Gon needed the Council's permission to train Anakin.

The Council worried that Anakin was too old to begin training, but Qui-Gon pleaded with them. "I request the boy be tested," he said.

Master Yoda and Mace Windu exchanged looks. Then Mace finally said, "Bring him before us, then."







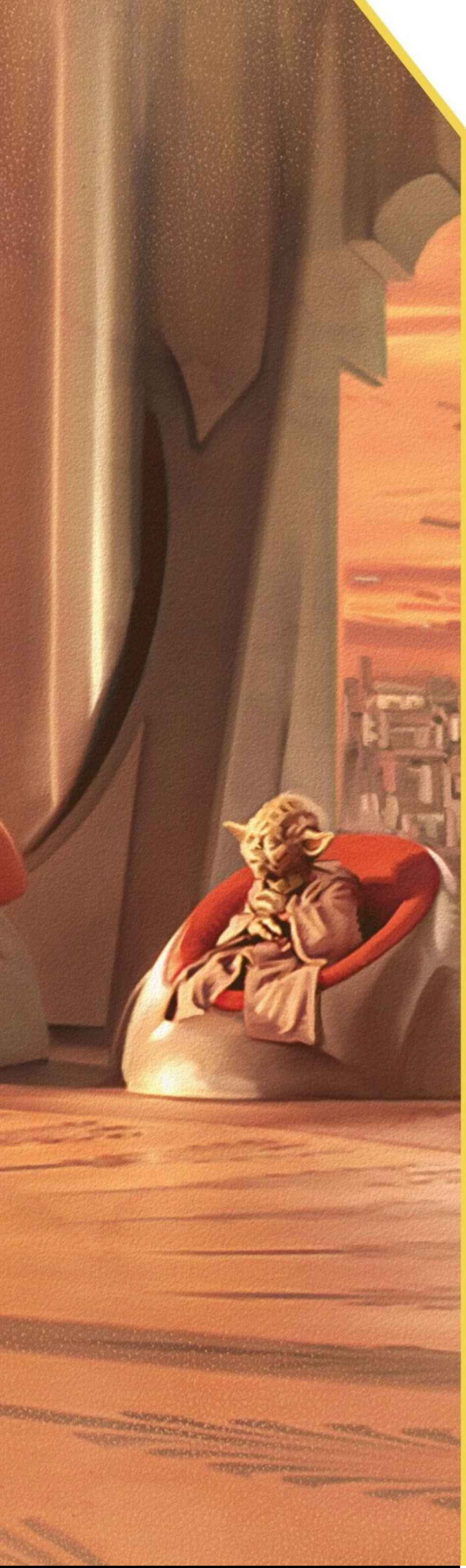
While Anakin was fighting for the chance to become a Jedi, Queen Amidala was fighting to save her people. Even though the Trade Federation was attacking her home planet of Naboo, the Galactic Senate refused to help her. The Senate didn't want to believe that something so terrible was happening.

Amidala refused to be ignored. With the support of her friend Senator Palpatine, the queen suggested that the Senate elect a new leader—one who would not overlook the suffering of Naboo and other worlds.









When Anakin was brought before the Council, the Jedi asked him many questions. But no question troubled Anakin as much as Master Yoda's.

"Afraid are you?" Yoda asked.

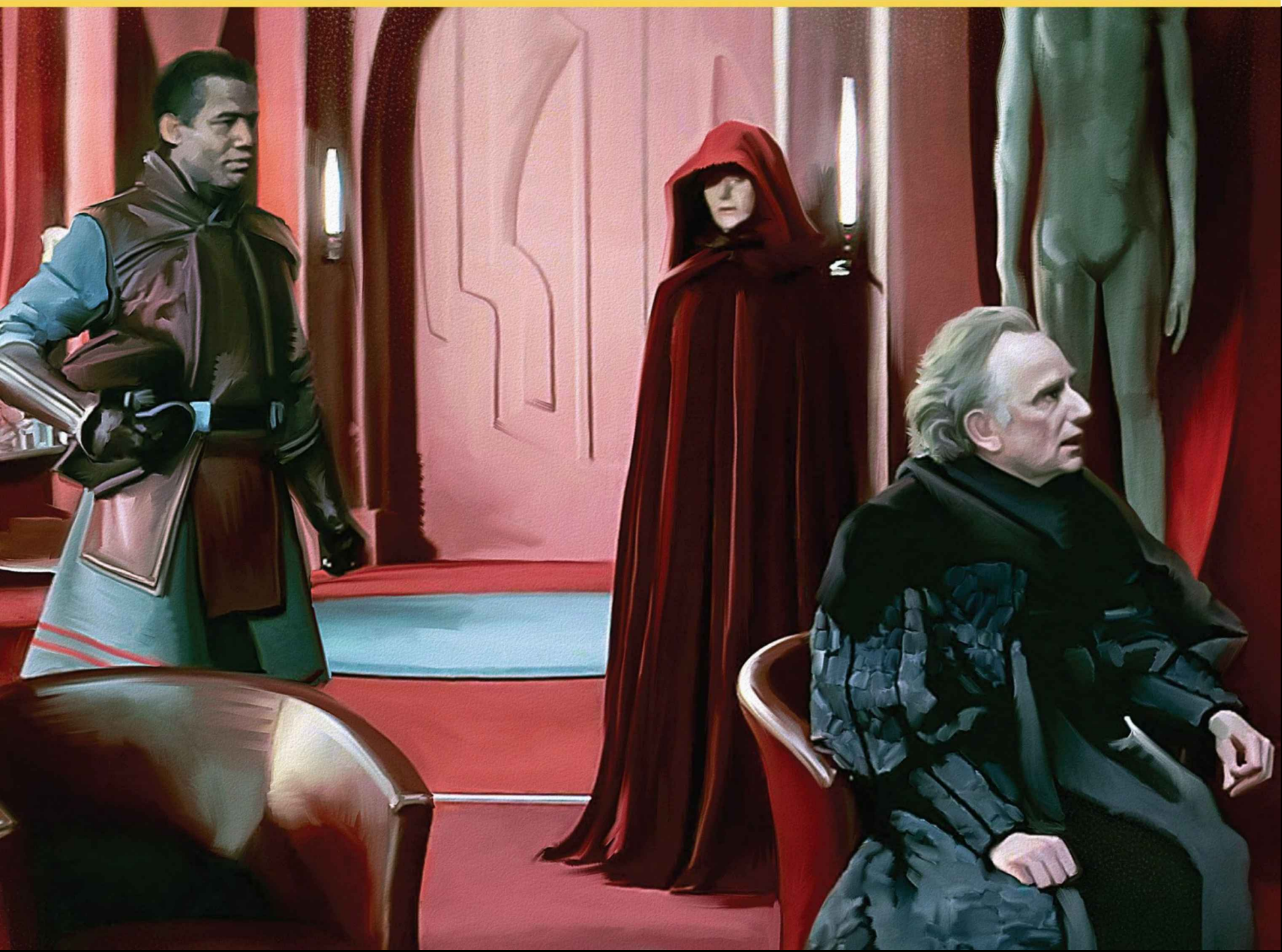
Anakin thought of his mother, left behind on Tatooine. He thought of how afraid he was to lose her. If he didn't become a Jedi, her sacrifice would have been for nothing.

All those thoughts swirled through Anakin's mind as Yoda spoke: "Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering."

Yoda paused and looked directly at Anakin. "I sense much fear in you."



Amidala paced in Senator Palpatine's office. The Senate had taken her advice and voted to replace the current leader with none other than Senator Palpatine himself!



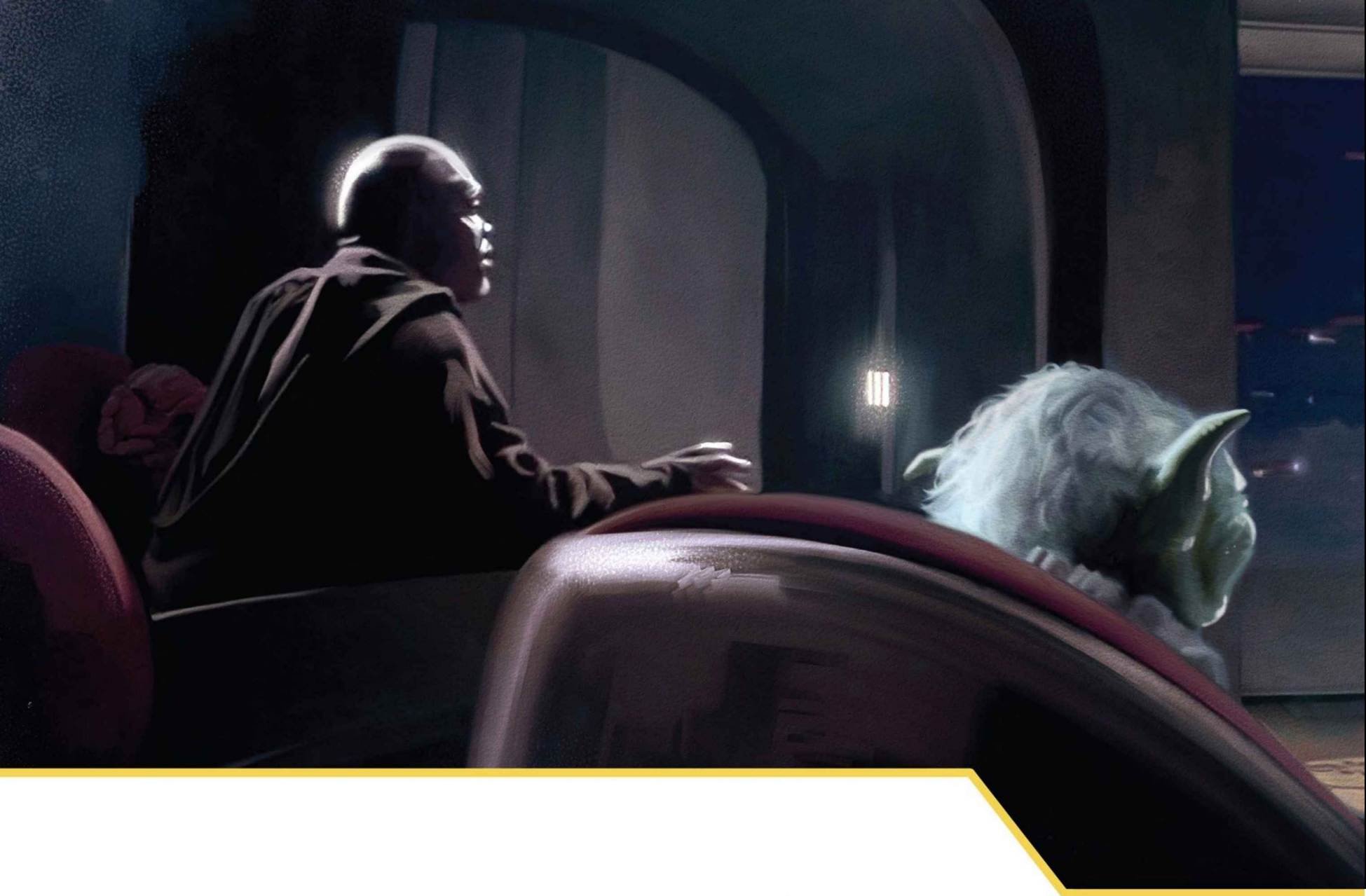


## A D I F F E R E N T P A T H

With Senator Palpatine advocating for her cause in the Senate, the queen decided to return to her home planet of Naboo and do what she could to help the situation on the ground.







After Anakin's test, the Council met with Qui-Gon.

"The Force is strong with him," one Jedi started.

"He is to be trained, then?" Qui-Gon asked.

"No," Mace finished.

Qui-Gon couldn't believe the Jedi would turn away such a promising student. He demanded an explanation.

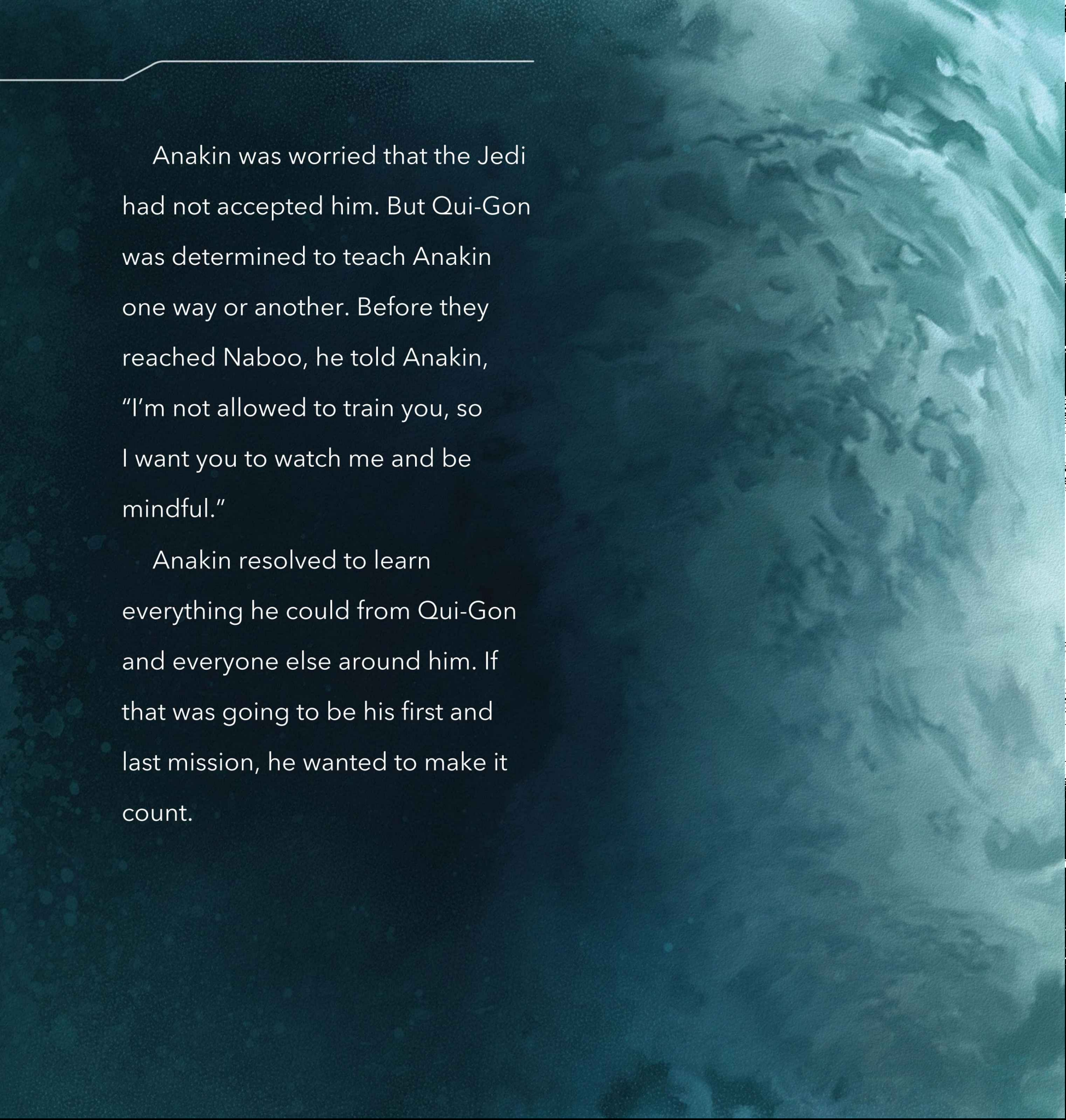




"Clouded, the boy's future is," Yoda told Qui-Gon. "Young Skywalker's fate will be decided later."

With the Senate choosing a new leader and Amidala confronting the Trade Federation, much about the future was uncertain. Yoda instructed Qui-Gon to go with Queen Amidala back to Naboo.





Anakin was worried that the Jedi had not accepted him. But Qui-Gon was determined to teach Anakin one way or another. Before they reached Naboo, he told Anakin, "I'm not allowed to train you, so I want you to watch me and be mindful."

Anakin resolved to learn everything he could from Qui-Gon and everyone else around him. If that was going to be his first and last mission, he wanted to make it count.







When they landed on Naboo, Amidala revealed her plan. She knew they had no chance of defeating the Trade Federation by themselves. But although the humans on Naboo had been imprisoned, the water-dwelling Gungans below the planet's surface were still free.

Anakin watched as the queen made her plea before the Gungans' leader, Boss Nass.

"We wish to form an alliance," she began. She looked uncertain—an expression Anakin wasn't used to seeing on the queen's face.





Suddenly, Padmé stepped forward and interrupted. "I am Queen Amidala."

The queen explained that she had disguised herself as a handmaiden for protection.

Anakin was shocked! He realized the brave girl he had befriended on Tatooine was actually the queen!

"Your Honor, our two great societies have always lived in peace," Queen Amidala said. "The Trade Federation has destroyed all that we have worked so hard to build."

The queen fell to her knees.

"I beg you to help us."

Boss Nass stroked his chin, making Amidala wait for his answer. Finally, he burst into laughter.

"Mesa lika dis. Maybe wesa bein friends."

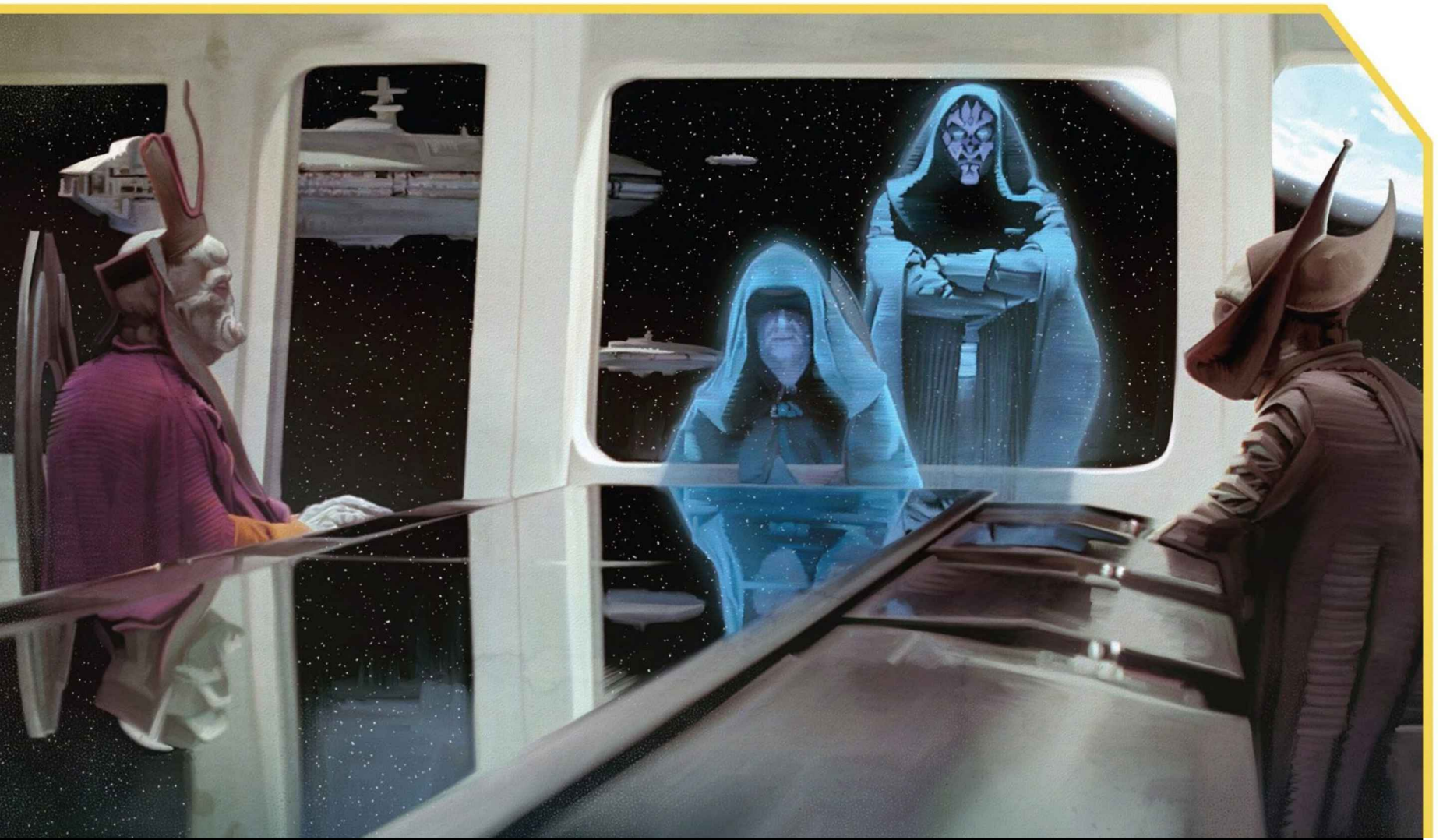




But the leaders of the Trade Federation knew what Padmé was up to. The Sith Master, Darth Sidious, and his apprentice Darth Maul, the mysterious foe who had attacked Qui-Gon on Tatooine, had discovered the queen's growing army.

"She is more foolish than I thought," said Darth Sidious. "Wipe them out. All of them."

Anakin and Padmé would soon be facing their greatest challenges yet.







**DROID ATTACK!**







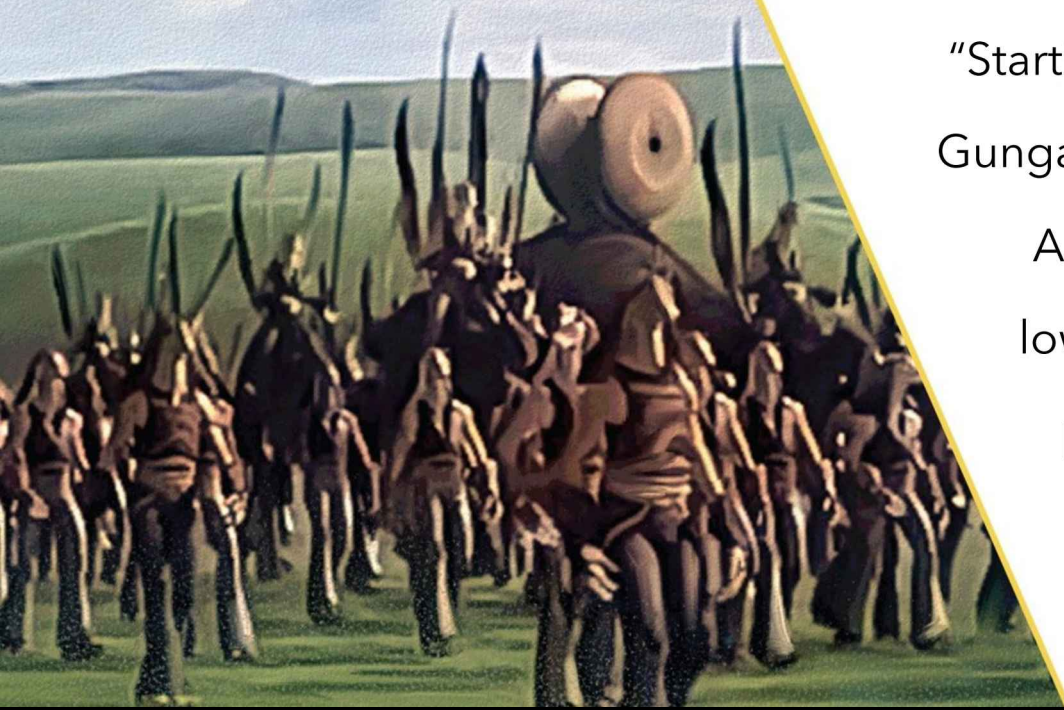
## DROID ATTACK!

**A**n army of Gungans waited nervously on the battlefield. Their home world, Naboo, was under attack! The evil Trade Federation had invaded the planet.

Luckily, the inhabitants of Naboo had a plan. The Gungans would hold off the Trade Federation's droid army while Naboo's starship pilots tried to blow up the space station controlling the robots. Meanwhile, Naboo's Queen Amidala and her soldiers would storm the palace and capture the Trade Federation viceroy. Only then would peace be restored.

"Starting up the shield," announced Gungan general Tobler Ceel.

A powerful energy force field lowered around the army like a protective bubble.





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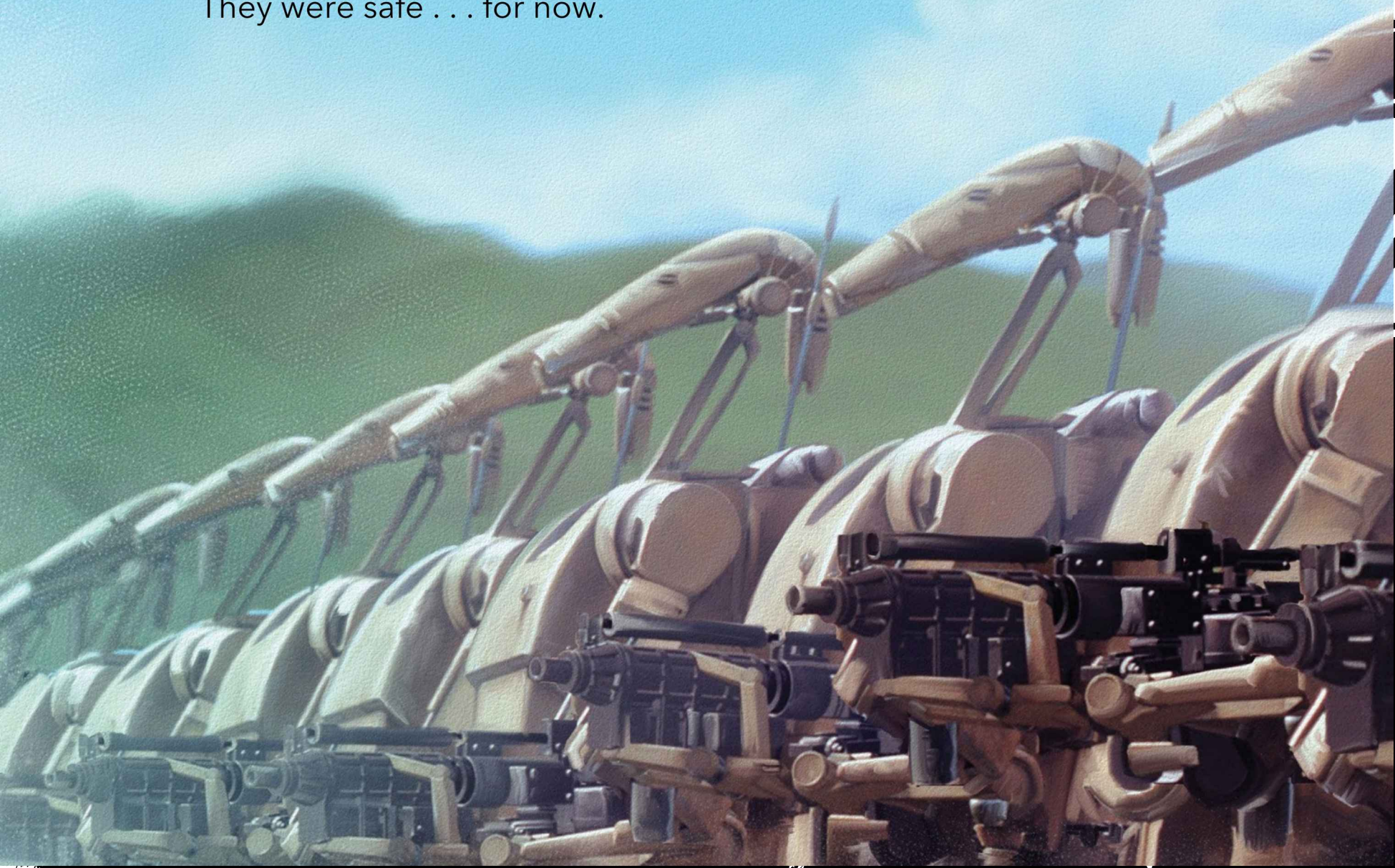
*Ruuuuuumb*. The ground shook as the droid army marched forward.  
There were so many of them! The Gungans were *really* nervous.

"Open fire!" ordered one of the droids.

*ZAP! ZAP! ZAP!*

The droids fired their laser guns. But the shield protected the Gungans.

They were safe . . . for now.











Meanwhile, Padmé and her soldiers stormed Naboo's royal palace, where the viceroy was hiding. Battle droids blocked their path.

"We don't have time for this," Padmé said to her guard, Captain Panaka. They needed to get to the throne room and capture the viceroy before the droid army became too much for the Gungans to hold off.

Captain Panaka had an idea. He used his blaster to shoot out a nearby window.



## D R O I D   A T T A C K !

"Ascension guns!" he cried.

"Good thinking!" exclaimed Padmé.

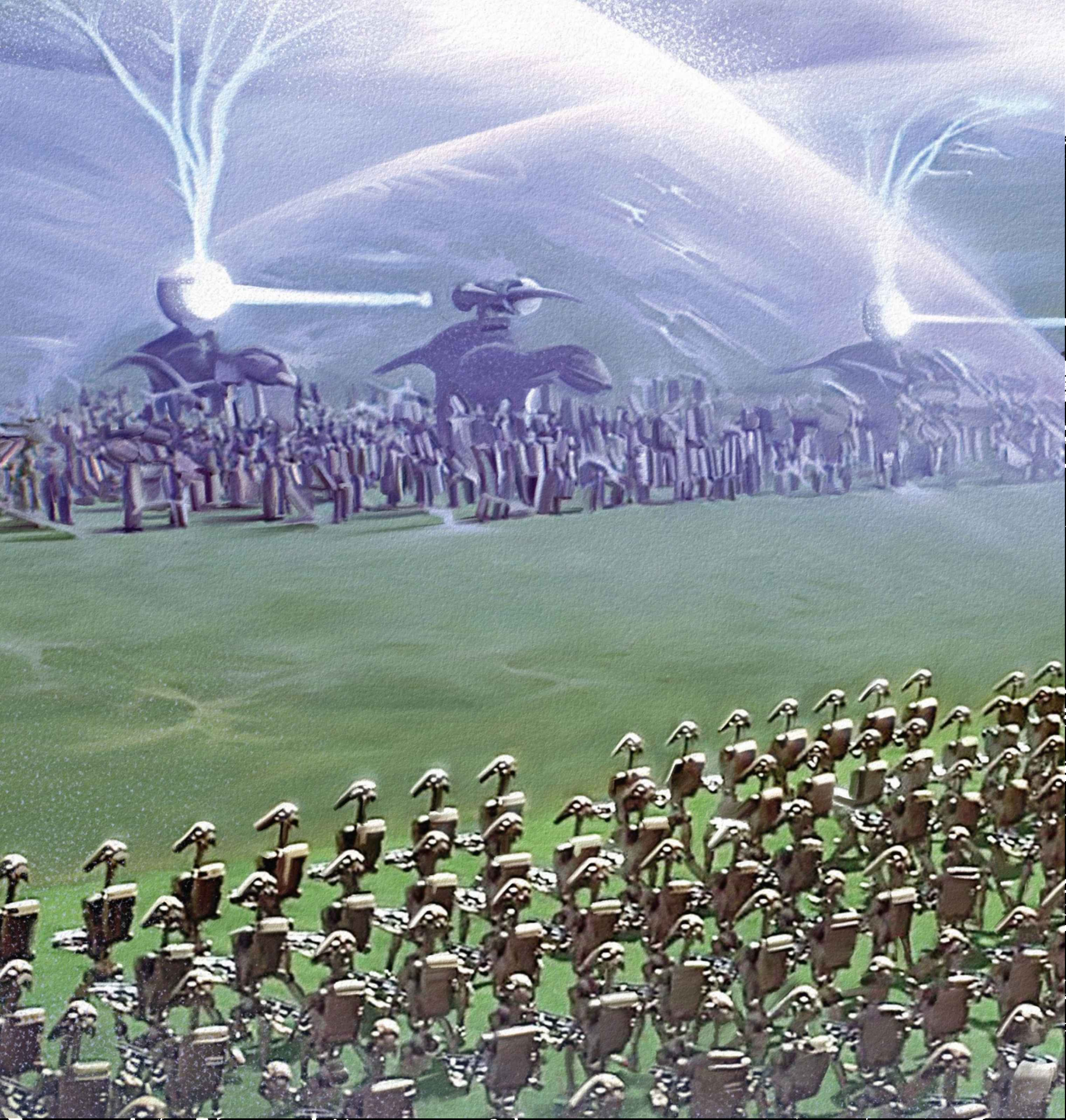
The soldiers could use their ascension guns to shoot grappling hooks to the next window ledge and rise up to the throne room . . . from the outside!

"Go!" yelled Captain Panaka.

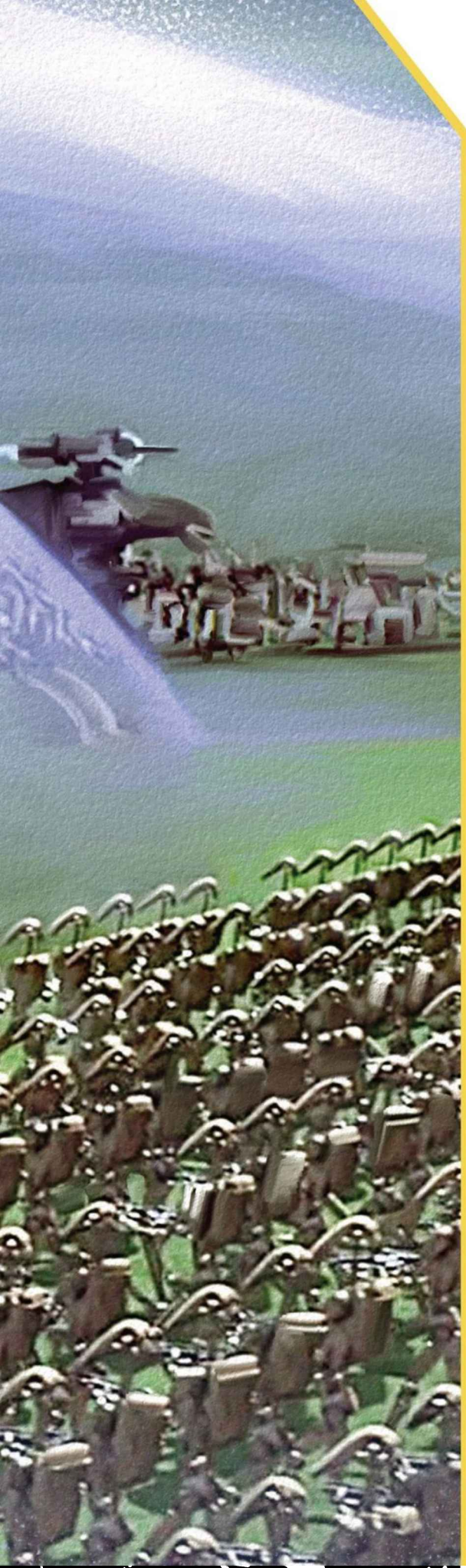
The group quickly did as he said. They were almost there!











Back on the battlefield, the droids unexpectedly ceased fire.

That couldn't be good. The Gungans shifted nervously.

"Steady, steady," Jar Jar Binks ordered his troops.

Enormous doors on the droid tanks suddenly opened. Racks holding thousands—no, tens of thousands!—of additional droid troops rolled out.

The Gungans gasped.

"Ouch time," General Ceel said to Jar Jar.

The massive droid army marched forward . . . and passed straight through the energy shield! Their tanks powered through, too.



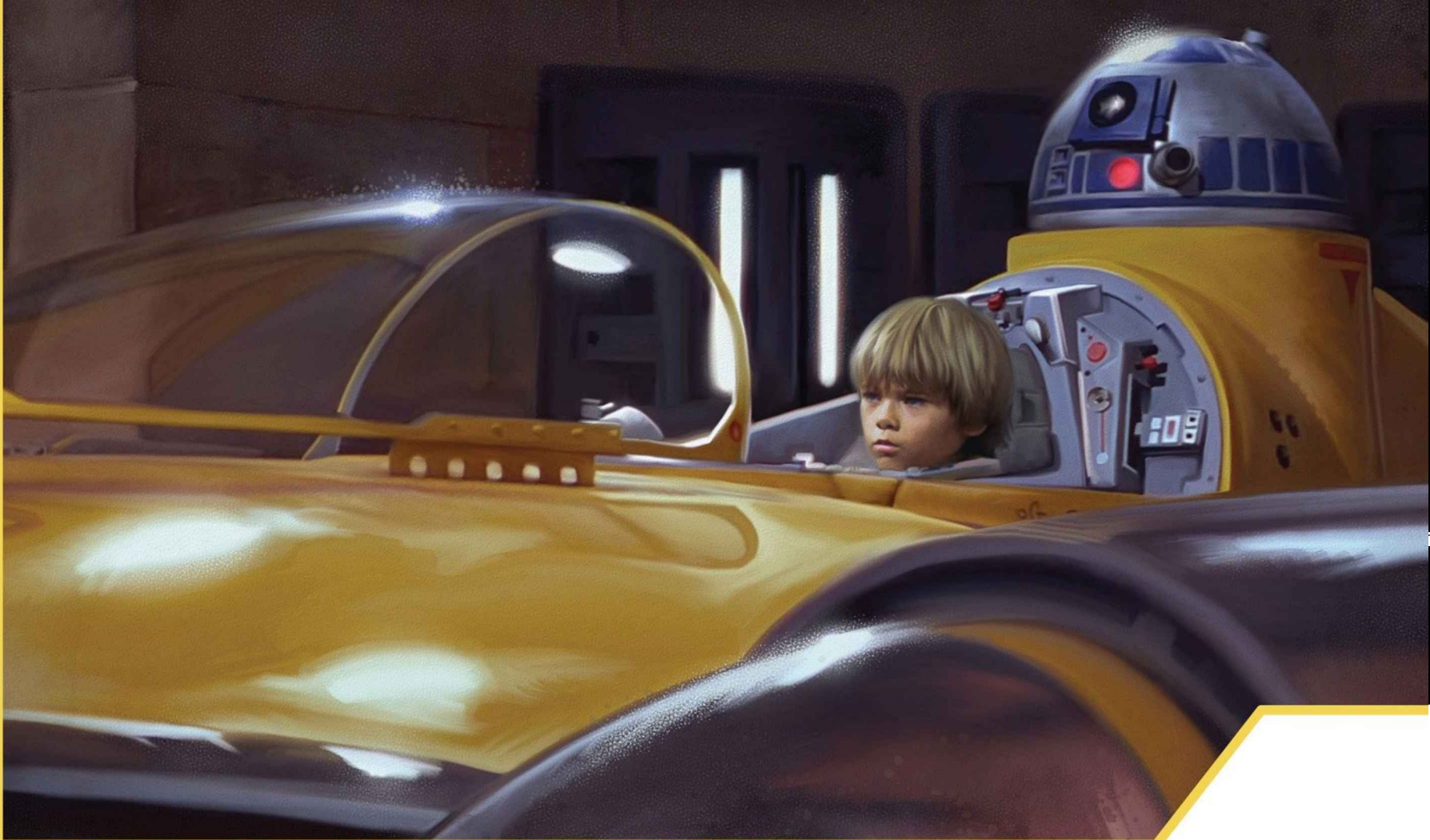
"Fire!" yelled General Ceel.

The Gungans used all their weapons to battle the droids. But there were just too many. Jar Jar's troops cried out and scattered left and right to avoid the blaster fire.

"Retreat! Retreat!" yelled Jar Jar.







Back in Naboo's starship hangar, Anakin Skywalker hid in the cockpit of a starship. Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn had made Anakin promise to stay there so the boy would be safe during the battle.

But Anakin accidentally turned on the ship's autopilot. Before he knew what was happening, the ship flew into the sky . . . and straight toward the battle between Naboo's starship pilots and the Trade Federation space station!





Even though he was young, Anakin was brave. He wanted to help!

With backup from his droid copilot, R2-D2, Anakin whizzed his ship left. He zipped it right. He did a barrel roll . . . right into a laser blast!

"We're hit, Artoo!" cried Anakin.

The boy's starship spiraled out of control and tumbled straight through the open doors of the space station's main hull.





Anakin desperately tried to get his ship up and running. He hit every button he could think of.

*Pow! Pow!* Without realizing it, Anakin shot two torpedoes straight at the space station's main reactor.

*FZZZZZZT!* The main reactor exploded!

"Let's get out of here!" Anakin yelled.









Anakin and R2-D2 escaped just in time.

The space station blew up from the inside!

"Woo-hoo!" cheered the other starship pilots. "Great job, Anakin!"

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Below on the battlefield, the droid army stopped working!

"Whatsa they doing?" asked Jar Jar.

"The control ship has been destroyed!" said General Ceel. "Look!"

He pushed over a deactivated droid soldier. It tumbled to the ground harmlessly.

"Hooray!" cheered all the Gungans.

Anakin had destroyed the space station, and Padmé and her soldiers had successfully captured the viceroy, too. The droid army was defeated.

Naboo was free once again!





# THE FINAL FIGHT









## THE FINAL FIGHT

Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jinn and his apprentice, Obi-Wan Kenobi, had arrived on Naboo alongside Queen Amidala with one goal: to capture Viceroy Nute Gunray, whose battle droids had taken control of the planet.

But as they headed toward the throne room, Qui-Gon saw Darth Maul—the mysterious Sith Lord he had battled on Tatooine—blocking their path.

Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan stepped forward to face Maul.









As the Jedi charged Darth Maul, the Sith Lord demonstrated incredible acrobatic skill, flipping through the air and wielding his double-bladed lightsaber to block Qui-Gon's and Obi-Wan's every move.

Maul was able to steer the Jedi into an adjoining room that contained a pit for the building's main power generator.

Lightsaber flashing, Darth Maul leapt onto a bridge high above, with Obi-Wan and Qui-Gon following close behind.



Qui-Gon chased Maul, navigating a series of energy barriers that would destroy anyone who got caught in them. Realizing that the barriers cycled on and off in a set pattern, Qui-Gon and Darth Maul painstakingly made their way forward to the generator's deadly melting pit, just a few barriers separating them from each other. Obi-Wan followed close behind but still had several barriers between him and his mentor.

When Qui-Gon finally reached Maul, the young Jedi watched helplessly as his mentor faced Darth Maul alone. Qui-Gon fought ferociously, ducking and parrying his enemy's attacks with dizzying speed!

But as Obi-Wan made it to the edge of the final energy barrier between him and his ally, the battle took an ugly turn. Darth Maul caught Qui-Gon off guard and landed a deadly blow.

Obi-Wan screamed as Qui-Gon collapsed to the floor.









When the energy gate cycled open, Obi-Wan charged at Maul, resuming the battle with a newfound ferocity.

Darth Maul attacked the young warrior relentlessly, using his mastery of the dark side of the Force to fling objects through the air, ultimately distracting Obi-Wan and sending him flying into the melting pit!

As Obi-Wan struggled to maintain a grip on the wall of the pit, Darth Maul kicked the Jedi's lightsaber into the seemingly bottomless depths.











Obi-Wan concentrated as Qui-Gon had taught him, reaching out with the Force even as Darth Maul drew closer. As the Sith Lord prepared to end Obi-Wan's life, the apprentice Jedi Knight soared out of the pit, summoning Qui-Gon's lightsaber to his hand along the way.

Wielding the lightsaber with deadly precision, he struck Darth Maul, sending the villain into the pit to his doom.

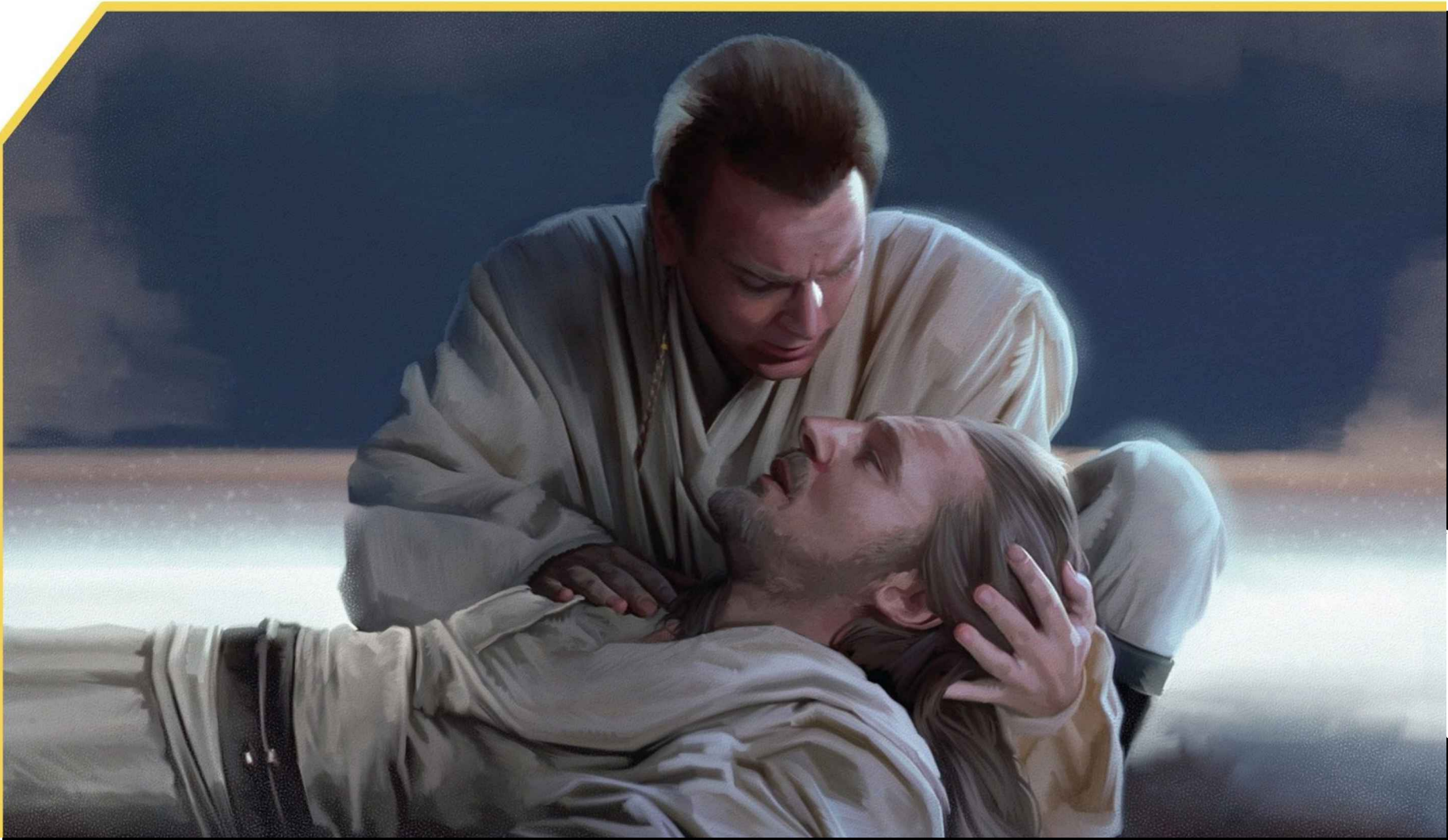


## THE FINAL FIGHT

Obi-Wan rushed to Qui-Gon's side, reaching his mentor just in time to hear his final wish. Qui-Gon urged his apprentice to train Anakin Skywalker, the young prodigy who Qui-Gon hoped would bring balance to the Force.

"Obi-Wan . . ." urged Qui-Gon, "promise me you'll train the boy."

"Yes, Master," agreed Obi-Wan, choking back tears as Qui-Gon breathed his last.

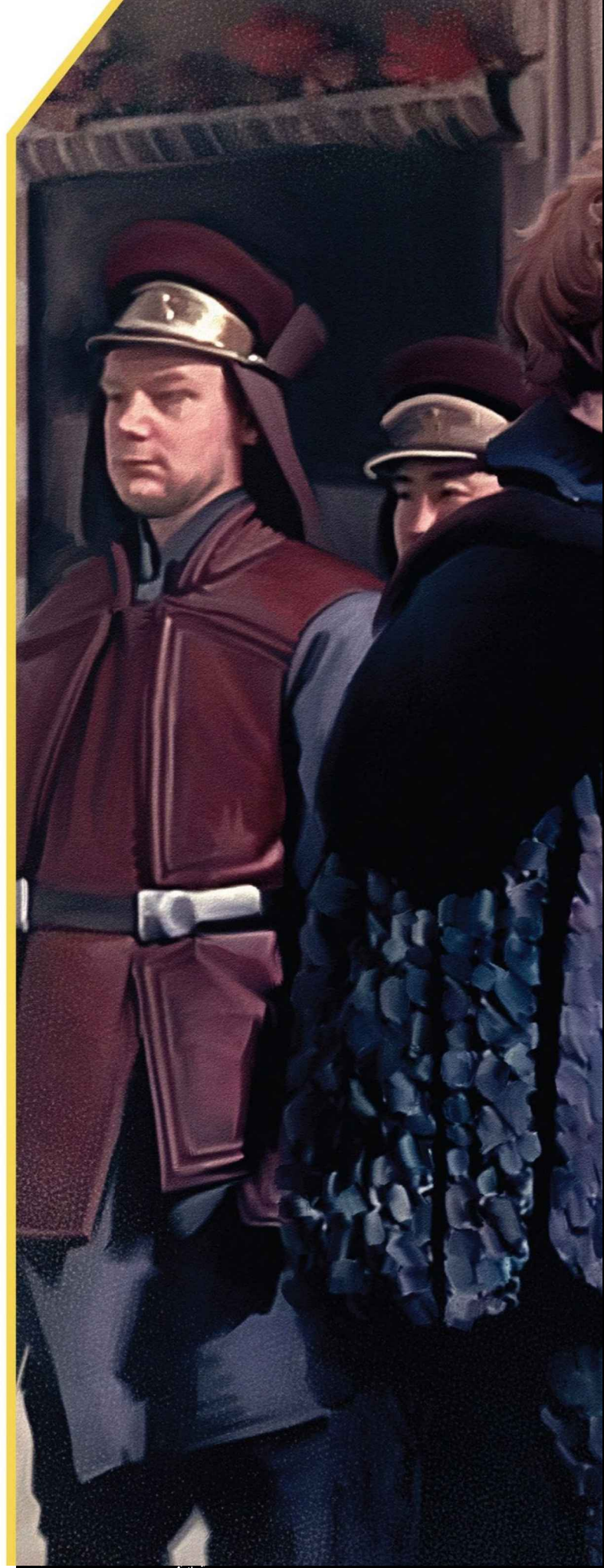




Hours later, a mournful Obi-Wan—reunited with Anakin Skywalker—watched as Supreme Chancellor Palpatine’s cruiser landed in the courtyard outside the main hangar.

The Chancellor, accompanied by his guards, approached the pair.

“We are indebted to you for your bravery, Obi-Wan Kenobi,” said Palpatine, adding, “and you, young Skywalker. We will watch your career with great interest.”









But it was Obi-Wan's career that was to be confirmed that day.

"Confer on you the level of Jedi Knight, the Council does," said Jedi Master Yoda. "But agree with your taking this boy as your Padawan learner, I do not. Grave danger I fear."

But Obi-Wan remembered his promise to his Jedi Master.

"Qui-Gon believed in him, and I will train him. Without the approval of the Council, if I must."

Reluctantly, the wise old Yoda agreed.

"Your apprentice, young Skywalker will be."







At sunset, the central plaza of Naboo's capital city was filled with people who had gathered to honor Qui-Gon at the Jedi Knight's funeral.

Nearby, Yoda and Jedi Master Mace Windu discussed their suspicions about the true nature of the threat facing the Jedi.

"There is no doubt. Darth Maul was a Sith," said Mace.

Yoda considered this, adding, "Always two there are . . . a master . . . and an apprentice."

As the funeral came to an end, a worried Mace asked the question they would need to answer soon: "But which was destroyed, the master or the apprentice?"



As the Jedi Masters wondered if the battle with the Sith was truly over, there was still reason to celebrate. Naboo was free from the evil Trade Federation!

The crowds cheered their heroes, who were assembled on the giant staircase. Padmé and Anakin smiled at each other, happy to be together once more.

Whatever the future held, for then at least, the forces of good stood triumphant.

